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Shaposhnikov on Compensating Ukraine for Nuclear Weapons

OW2701203693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, Air Marshal Shaposhnikov thinks it possible that Russia could provide material compensation to Ukraine for strategic nuclear arms. "This, however, is not the only way for the two countries to overcome their controversy," he said in an interview for INTERFAX.

"I believe Russia needs to make a careful assessment of the expense of dismantling the missiles, their transportation and utilization of nuclear charges," he said. All these estimates, he insists, should be made by highly qualified experts on both sides. "Only then will we find out who owes whom in reality," he reasons.

Marshal Shaposhnikov does not exclude the possibility that on final analysis, it would transpire that Russia's expenses would exceed the benefits it is expecting.

Russia, Ukraine Continue Talks on START I

'Compensation' for Warheads Discussed

OW2701143493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian-Ukrainian talks for implementing the START-1 treaty and the Lisbon Protocol continued on Wednesday [27 January] in the town of Irpen near Kiev. The Russian delegation is headed by Ambassador, Yuriy Dubinin, and the Ukrainian one by Minister of Environmental Protection, Yuriy Kostenko.

According to the information provided by the Ukrainian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], the sides have agreed that the focus of their problems, at the initial stage of their talks, will be the safety of the nuclear arms stationed on the territory of Ukraine, noting that certain progress has already been made in this area.

The Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister, Chairman of the National Disarmament Committee, Boris Tarasyuk indicated that Ukraine regards as one of the principle issues the sides have to resolve the problem of compensation for the warheads Russia will remove from its territory. In his words, such compensation could take the form of uranium needed for the operation of Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

He emphasized that the talks do not only address the tactical ICBM warheads, which have already been withdrawn to Russia.

Tarasyuk said, that Ukraine has already initiated discussions on the implementation of the START-1 treaty with Belarus and Kazakhstan, characterizing, as quadripartite, the process of the disarmament talks among the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In compliance with Article 2 of the Lisbon Protocol, four republics of the former Soviet Union which have nuclear arms on their territory are obliged to conduct discussions and specify the number of warheads to be reduced by each party.

Talks End; Progress Made

OW2701204293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian-Ukrainian talks on honoring the START-1 treaty and ensuring the nuclear and ecological safety of strategic nuclear forces in Russia and Ukraine ended today in the town of Irpen near Kiev. The two delegations, headed by Russian Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin and Ukrainian Environmental Protection Minister Yuriy Kostenko, issued a joint statement on the results of negotiations.

The statement points out that during the talks, progress was made in preparing a draft treaty on supervising the use of strategic nuclear missile complexes.

The parties agreed that special expert groups should consider different options for dismantling, transporting and destroying the warheads and other parts of nuclear missile complexes stationed in Ukraine, including the processing of nuclear components.

The next round of talks will be held in Moscow.

Negotiator Criticizes START II as Favoring U.S.

OW2701164993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After the implementation of START-2 the genuine balance between Russian and American strategic nuclear potentials might reach 1:1. Seven to two point four, in favor of the USA, said Valeriy Dmitriyev, who took part in the talks on cuts in strategic offensive weapons held between the former USSR and the USA. A colonel in the reserves, he compiled a report at the request of the Russian Unity parliamentary faction, whose members are sharply critical of the political course pursued by President Boris Yeltsin.

According to Dmitriyev, the above mentioned balance of forces "will make it possible for the Americans, in conditions of higher international tensions, to exert pressure with dangerous consequences and dictate its terms in any area, including economic."

The obviously inequitable, in his view, character of the treaty "will actually lead to undermining Russia's strategic power, and negatively affect the future Russian-American relationship."

The implementation of START-2, Dmitriyev concedes, would have more favorable consequences as compared

with START-1. Nevertheless he notes that START-2 "has a number of obvious shortcomings of fundamental nature."

According to him, the treaty demands radical changes in the structure of Russia's strategic offensive weapons. The costly missile-carrying submarines, which will be extremely vulnerable when the Americans build a global surveillance system, are to become the basis of military power. Their viability will have to be ensured by powerful naval forces Russia is not likely to acquire in the foreseeable future. Besides, the expert writes, the efforts to rebuild the structure of Russia's strategic offensive weapons will require a costly deployment of more than 600 single-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles, while a vast number of reliable and effective weapons will be subjected to reduction.

Dmitriyev also maintains that "the agreement allows for carrying out reductions by means of simply removing warheads from missiles. The consequences of such reductions will be clearly destabilizing, since, while remaining in their depots, warheads can promptly be put back, should international tensions heighten. Moreover, the USA will have considerably greater opportunities for doing so, since it retains 4000 warheads against Russia's 2000.

According to the Russian Unity expert, the treaty virtually cannot hinder the implementation of the American program for deploying sea-based cruise missiles. He says that the USA has a clear supremacy in this area, planning to deploy up to 4000 such missiles, while in Russia their quantity will hardly exceed a couple of hundred.

The terms of this treaty, Dmitriyev writes in conclusion, make it possible for the Americans to keep 95 strategic B-1B bombers, capable of carrying 1520 warheads, unaccounted for. "The one-sidedness of this provision is due to the fact that Russia has virtually no advanced strategic aircraft, since 15 heavy TU-160 bombers are on Ukrainian territory," he says.

Arguments For and Against START II Ratification Viewed

PM2801120193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 93 p 3

[S. Ivanov report: "Ball in Parliament's Court"]

[Text] [Ivanov] I dare say that the debate on the ratification of the START II Treaty will be held behind closed doors. There are a number of reasons for that which, in my view, are entirely justified—problems that are too delicate from the national security standpoint.

First a brief interview with B. Tarasov, coordinator of the "Otchizna" faction.

[Ivanov] Why was the "Otchizna" faction the first to begin the parliamentary hearings on START II?

[Tarasov] First, the "Otchizna" faction is patriotically minded. And then, since nobody in the Supreme Soviet is showing any initiative as yet, we decided to start the parliamentary hearings first. Second, we have a sizeable percentage of military members who can realistically assess the START II Treaty.

[Ivanov] You have to hand it to "Otchizna"—it has managed to ensure a very considerable level of discussion of the problem. The supporters of START II included senior officials from the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Military-Strategic Research Center, Ministry of Security, and—strange as it may seem—nuclear scientists. Equally senior independent experts, political scientists, and a number of military specialists were opposed to the treaty.

Argument of the Supporters of START II

By 2000-2003 the SS-18 heavy missile will have come to the very end of its working life. Whether Russia likes it or not, it will have to be decommissioned. The pace at which the missiles can be scrapped is determined by the capacity of two plants on Russian territory, which are capable of "handling" 70-80 missiles a year each. Incidentally, the other nuclear republics' financial claims against our Western partners with respect to disarmament are groundless, since only these two Russian plants will be doing the destruction. Russia cannot replace old SS-18's with new ones, since the "Yuzhmash" Plant where they are produced is now on the territory of a foreign state—Ukraine.

Argument of the Opponents of START II

This argument is longer than that of their opponents. First—the nuclear triad of the USSR, and now Russia, has always been founded on land-based missiles (approximately 60 percent), the nuclear submarine fleet made up 30 percent, while aviation accounted for 10 percent. U.S. land-based missiles make up 20 percent of their triad, nuclear missile submarines make up 55 percent, and strategic aviation accounts for 25 percent. Under START II heavy missiles with immense potential for overcoming enemy antimissile defenses are eliminated. Missile-carrying submarines will become the basis of the Russian nuclear "shield." It was noted that a submarine's service life is around 25 years. Around 60 percent of the Russian submarine fleet is now nearing obsolescence. The past few years have witnessed a steady tendency for Russia to reduce appropriations for the Navy. In 1992 this figure fell to its permissible limit. Production started to crumble, professional cadres and technology were lost, and shipbuilding collectives began to disintegrate. Over the past few years not a single strategic missile submarine cruiser [as published] has been laid down. In this situation, and if there is no change in the attitude to the Navy, Russia will find itself without sea-based strategic forces in 2003.

Apart from the purely military aspects, nobody has submitted any figures as yet on the financial backup for START II. Will Russia be able to withstand the disarmament race? Economic questions in this area are closely bound up with social issues. The destruction of the infrastructure for strategic bases and military production will result in a mass migration [migratsiya] of servicemen and military-industrial complex workers.

All these pros and cons at the initial parliamentary hearings were seen to be voiced by convinced supporters of disarmament. It is another matter that some of them are already gradually starting to think in a new way—that is, not on the scale of a superpower (the Soviet Union) but in Russian terms, on the basis of problems which the country is equipped to handle. Many complained of the lack of any clearly formulated national security concept or Russian military doctrine. These two documents could be the key to the successful ratification of START II.

Kravchuk Comments on Ukraine-Russia Cooperation

LD2601203393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS military writer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Kiev January 26 TASS—"An agreement with Russia on provision, servicing and dismantling of nuclear missiles can be a correct political solution" to the strategic forces' issue, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told a news conference after a presentation ceremony at the Antonov Design Bureau today, commenting on the republican stand at the first round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on strategic forces.

"Ukraine will not hesitate to sign the economic, scientific and technical agreements which will serve for the benefit of states and peoples of the former Soviet Union," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told today's expanded meeting of the Scientific-Technical Board of the Antonov Design Bureau.

The Ukrainian leader, heads of the republican ministries and departments and their Russian colleagues congratulated the collective of the renown design bureau with receiving an aviation register certificate of the Interstate Aviation Committee.

The certificate gives the Kiev bureau the right to design and create civil aircraft.

A flight-worthy certificate was issued today to the An-124,100 aircraft. This will enable the use of the modification of the An-124 (Ruslan) heavy military-cargo plane at international commercial air routes, as well as its sales outside the Commonwealth.

Applications for purchase of the plane have been submitted by many states, including the United States, India and China.

"Russian and Ukrainian aircraft builders have always been natural and most close business partners," head of the Russian Committee on Industrial Defence Branches Viktor Glukhikh told ITAR-TASS. "We have no differences, but a common task to prevent our domestic aircraft building market from collapse and do our best to gain profit at the international market.

"The degree of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation in the sphere is so high we have no possibility or right to act one by one".

Ruslan was a result of the broadest cooperation in the former Soviet Union. The fact its modification has received an international certificate proves no less efficient cooperation is also possible in the Commonwealth.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 2020 GMT on 26 January, in an item transmitted via KYODO, adds: "Responding to an Interfax question during his meeting with journalists on Tuesday in Kiev due to the beginning of the first round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on strategic nuclear forces, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk declared that the political solution of the issues concerning strategic nuclear forces 'should be based on a literate technical and legal approach.'

"'Those who will participate in the negotiations should put forward proposals and understand the essence of the issue,' he pointed out. According to Kravchuk, 'the essence of the issues is not only in the necessity to develop agreements (of Ukraine) with Russia on servicing, maintenance, and dismantlement of weapons and on other problems connected with the strategic forces.'

"Appearing at an expanded session of the scientific council of the Aviation scientific-technical complex named after Antonov, the Ukrainian leader noted that Kiev without any doubt 'will put its signature under those economic, scientific, and technical agreements which will bring good to the states and peoples of the former USSR.' 'Agreements in political sphere without economic foundation will be fruitless because political passions in Ukraine will not allow to agree on political integration,—Kravchuk noted.—But we should reach an agreement on economic integration.'"]

Shaposhnikov, SACEUR Discuss Nuclear Arsenal

LD2701215293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent S. Sokolova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At the General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces today, Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, at the request of INTERFAX and "Vesti," clarified a report by Radio Liberty on his categorical statement, which "Vesti" also carried yesterday, that Russia was ready to offer Ukraine compensation for the rejection of its nuclear arsenal, and that among other things fuel for atomic power stations would be included as compensation.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] This is, so to speak, one of the ways of solving this problem, but I am not saying it is the precise one. [end recording]

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov also does not rule out the possibility that once the economists have come up with all the figures it may be that it is not Russia which is in Ukraine's debt, but the other way around. A meeting also took place between Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, and John Shalikashvili, supreme allied commander of the NATO Joint Armed Forces in Europe. The commanders came to the view that it is necessary to ratify the START I treaty as quickly as possible. The NATO troop leadership is not interested in expanding the nuclear club and is in favor of Russia alone being the heir to the nuclear potential of the former USSR. The sides also discussed questions of mutual cooperation and a system of collective security in Europe. The question of strategic forces and the withdrawal of troops from the Baltics was also touched upon.

Belarus' Shushkevich Meets NATO Officials

LD2601184093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 26 TASS—Strategic nuclear missiles stationed in Belarus are under Russia's control and Belarus wants to speed up their withdrawal from its territory to become a nuclear-free and neutral state, Belarusian parliamentary Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich said on Tuesday.

The announcement was made during Shushkevich's meeting with a delegation of the NATO Sub-Committee for Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Republics.

The delegation led by Jan Peterson, a deputy of the Norwegian parliament, included sub-committee members from Portugal and Turkey.

Shushkevich informed the guests about the domestic and foreign policy in Belarus, stressing that he favoured cooperation with Belarus's neighbours, including Russia which supplies the republic with energy and fuel at prices much lower than on the world market.

Shushkevich said Belarus needs a 70,000-75,000 strong Army to implement the concept of armed neutrality and ensure Belarus's sovereignty.

The parties also discussed prospects for diplomatic and military cooperation. They expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks and voiced hope they will help them to take a new step towards mutual understanding.

Congress of Industrialists Discusses Improving Economy

LD2601172293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report from Alma-Ata by unidentified correspondent, including recording of comments by President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Arkhadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Council of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] An international congress of industrialists and entrepreneurs was held in Alma-Ata today.

[Correspondent] Participants in the congress, who represent 22 states, discussed the tasks of the international congress aimed at restoring economic links and creating the preconditions for moving from depression to investment activities, integration, and industrial boom on a new economic basis. President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Council of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who is also its coordinator, and others spoke of this.

[Volskiy] I must say the economy cannot go on being a hostage to politics. That is the main issue. Therefore the congress is trying to develop work among a cross section of enterprises [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed in order to develop closer lateral ties, industrialists, agrarian workers, oil men, and gas men of the former Soviet Union should set up their own unions. He promised them his active assistance in setting them up.

[Nazarbayev] I am addressing my proposal to all heads of states of the former Soviet Union, all the ministers of industry, and all heads of the agro-industrial complexes and of agricultural machine-building, all oil and gas men. This must be done during the first quarter of the year. This union must be developed into a party of industrialists; I am not afraid of this word.

Nazarbayev Addresses Congress

OW2601172393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs commenced in Alma-Ata on Tuesday [26 January]. The congress is being attended by

representatives from over 20 states. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, made the opening speech.

Nazarbayev expressed, above all, his satisfaction with the fact that the international congress was taking place in Alma-Ata. He said that this was one of the "constructive organizations." "Your congress, for me, represents one of the embryos of future mutually beneficial economic collaboration."

Nazarbayev pointed out that the congress was being attended by experienced and businessmen.

The president spoke of the need to halt the decline of economic relations and processes of disintegration currently at work within the CIS. This was why, in his opinion, the main initiatives for integration were being made by Alma-Ata.

Nazarbayev gave a high appraisal to the Minsk summit of CIS leaders and stressed that "Kazakhstan had to struggle for its success." He said that Kazakhstan's efforts had resulted in agreements on the formation of the Interstate Bank and, on the whole, the CIS Charter, despite the difficulties, being passed. He said that the Commonwealth Charter would be ratified during the current session of the republic's parliament.

The Head of State reminded his audience that an agreement had been reached in Minsk on Russia commanding 50% of the votes in the Interbank Union and that resolutions would be passed 2/3. The CIS leaders, the president said, had been unanimously in favour of the formation of the bank, which would be managed by representatives from the national banks of the CIS republics, and had not objected to the fact that money would be printed in Russia. Nazarbayev expressed the hope that Ukraine would, nevertheless, join the CIS and sign its Charter at a future date.

Nazarbayev proposed that a multi-lateral scientific and technological convention be signed by the representatives of states with related economic difficulties. There were several options available, in his opinion. The idea was for scientific and industrial and entrepreneurial circles to make politicians "solve burning issues." This convention could, he considered, strengthen those aspects of mutual relations within the CIS which had revealed weakness on the part of politicians to form links and make agreements in general.

The president also considered that oil and gas producing enterprises throughout the CIS should liaise. He said that "Kazakhstan's efforts had resulted in the meeting between ministries responsible for oil and gas which will take place in Tyumen." He announced that Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, had accepted his proposal to chair the meeting and that a "mini-OPEC" would be formed at a future date.

Nazarbayev was convinced of the need for partnership between military industrial enterprises and collaboration between all scientific and industrial structures connected with atomic energy and the nuclear industry. This, he considered, could be the guarantee for the strengthening of international security and political stability.

The president stressed that "these initiatives were being made by Kazakhstan not from the point of view of her own needs." He said that Kazakhstan was currently witnessing significant growth and that there was a large potential for the export of oil products. Kazakhstan consumed 18 of the 27 tons of oil produced in the republic. The republic produced 140 Mn. tons of coal, 80 mn. [million] of which were exported. Sixty percent of the former USSR's total amount of uranium was also produced in Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev also proposed a meeting between the ministers responsible for agriculture and machine building for agriculture in Akmola (formerly Tselinograd in the north of Kazakhstan). He also said that Kazakhstan would be prepared to host a meeting between ministers responsible for industry (particularly ferrous metallurgy, coal and machine building) either in Alma-Ata or in Karaganda.

The Kazakh leader also said that the process of integration within the framework of the former COMECON nations should be renewed. He considered the establishment of links between Eastern European and Central Asian nations important.

Nazarbayev proposed an international competition to produce the best plan for an organizational structure to co-ordinate economic collaboration between the nations of Eastern Europe, the former USSR and other "closely connected Eurasian countries." He pointed out that an international institute could be opened in Alma-Ata to study the problems experienced throughout the Eurasian economic zone. "We would undertake to invite leading specialists from South Eastern Asia, Indochina, the Arab nations and Central Asia to work at the institute," he emphasized. "Alma-Ata could become a Mecca for the developers and planners of the integration of the Eurasian economic zone," he said.

Regarding collaboration with different nations, Nazarbayev said that the republic was prepared to establish standard economic relations with all of the Baltic States and stressed that he was looking forward immensely to the visit to Alma-Ata by a Lithuanian delegation headed by Brazauskas. The president said that Kazakhstan was already in the process of concluding an agreement with all of the Transcaucasian states and also intended to "move into Eastern Europe."

Chernomyrdin To Meet World Economic Leaders 29 Jan

LD2801092093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is expected to participate in an international meeting of world economic leaders in Davos (Switzerland) from January 29 to 31.

The meeting, which is being arranged by the World Economic Forum, will be attended by representatives from about 20 countries at prime ministers' and cabinet ministers' level.

It has become known that, along with Chernomyrdin, Russian Deputy Premiers Aleksandr Shokhin, Anatoliy Chubays, Boris Fedorov, as well as Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepeneurs, have been officially invited to attend the meeting.

Within the framework of the world economic leaders' meeting, Chernomyrdin, judging by a tentative programme for his trip, intends to meet with the president of the Swiss Confederation, the prime ministers of the Netherlands and Poland, and executives of a number of firms and the world's leading banks.

CSCE Minorities Commissioner Completes Baltic Tour

PM2701142193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Aleksey Portanskiy: "CSCE Commissioner for Human Rights in Baltic Countries"]

[Text] As of today there are several dozen spots in Europe where potential conflicts could develop on interethnic grounds. In July last year the post of CSCE supreme commissioner for the affairs of national minorities was instituted at the CSCE in Helsinki.

M. van der Steol, from the Netherlands, who took up this post as of 1 January, has begun his activity with a study of the position of Russian-speaking minorities in the Baltic republics. One key problem which will have to be studied seriously, Mr. van der Steol admitted at a press conference on Monday [25 January] to mark the end of his tour of the three Baltic countries, consists in the imperfection of legislative acts, especially in Latvia and Estonia, which is leading to actual inequality between the Russian-speaking and indigenous population.

The rights of national minorities are defined in the CSCE Paris Charter and also by the materials of the conference on the human dimension in Copenhagen in 1990. Estonia, Latvia, and Estonia together with other European states have signed these acts, thus assuming specific commitments. As Mr. van der Steol stressed, in his future recommendations to the CSCE chairman he will proceed from the demands of these documents.

Having attentively studied the situation on the spot and holding numerous meetings with the leadership of the Baltic states and with representatives of the population, the CSCE supreme commissioner is disinclined so far to dramatize the human rights situation in that region. From talks with the indigenous and nonindigenous inhabitants he has concluded that the former and the latter have always gotten along well with each other. The question of refusal of citizenship rights, in his opinion, remains open: The final formulas have not yet been elaborated and not all groups of the Russian-speaking population have clearly indicated their positions.

M. van der Steol expressed the hope that the parliaments and governments of the Baltic countries will eventually reach sensible decisions which will not encroach on the rights of national minorities. The CSCE commissioner is to present the final conclusions on his tour to the Swedish foreign minister who, as the current CSCE chairperson, will decide how to make further use of them.

Iran Reportedly Acquires Nuclear Arms From CIS

PM2701153593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Item from roundup of ITAR-TASS, EFIR-DAYDZHEST reports under the "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" rubric: "Atom Bomb From CIS"]

[Text] The German weekly FOCUS reports that Iran has nuclear weapons which are ready for immediate use.

Iran acquired them last year in CIS countries. It mentions an atom bomb which can be dropped from an airplane and a launcher for missiles with nuclear warheads.

CIS Armed Forces Commander Shaposhnikov Interviewed

OW2801053193 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Interview with Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces; by Aleksandr Panov and Tatyana Vedeneyeva; from the "Utro" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Panov] Today, 75 years ago on 28 January, the Sovnarkom [Soviet People's Commissar] adopted a decree on the organization of a workers and peasants' Red Army. The Soviet Army [as heard] is actually a continuation of the Red Army, and today all the servicemen serving in the various CIS states can celebrate this day as the date of creation of the army.

Our guest today is Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the United Armed Forces of our Commonwealth.

Yevgeniy Ivanovich, happy holiday. What thought does this date produce in you? It is no secret that today the Army has a lot of problems.

[Shaposhnikov] [passage omitted] Today, the Army and society are in a difficult situation. It is probably something similar to the situation in 1917 or 1918. Since half of our state, our country, was occupied by the Germans and they were advancing further, the Red Army was created. One feels like asking: Do we really need someone to attack us so as to gather together again, repel the enemy, and win? Although we have been pushed in this direction when there was no more Soviet Union and the CIS was still forming, the Army remained united. There were forces in Russia, in the Army and in the Commonwealth countries who would have liked the Army to be the consolidating organ, but in a negative manner—that is, through coercive methods. I want to say that we had enough wisdom, forbearance and responsibility to prevent this.

[Panov] In other words, to remain out of politics?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, one can put it that way. But this is a debatable issue. One can not say the Army is outside of politics because, to a certain degree, we....

[Panov, interrupting] Because you feel it yourselves, all the politics, yes?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, we do feel it. Today, the Army has become the Army of the Commonwealth states. In spite of the fact that the division proceeded more or less painlessly, the Army still has big problems which, on the one hand, are being solved and on the other hand, arise again. For example, take the new borders, the new laws in the Commonwealth states, the difference in pay of servicemen in different countries.

[Panov, interrupting] The problem of withdrawal of troops.

[Shaposhnikov] The problem of withdrawal of troops. Then there are the privatization vouchers. Some states have them, some do not, and Russian citizens serve in other states and they hope that they will get these privatization vouchers. The Russian president has just adopted such a decision, according to which all citizens of the Russian Federation serving in any territory will definitely be provided with these vouchers. The Army, or actually the armies of the Commonwealth states, still remains international in both spirit and makeup. It was not for nothing that I have taken part in and spoke at the interparliamentary assembly in Leningrad in December, and called our parliamentarians, our law makers, to maximally coordinate all laws on Army issues adopted by the Commonwealth states so a Russian person serving in the territory of Kazakhstan would not feel that Russia was somehow better off materially.

[Panov] The problem of the loyalty oath to this or that state probably remains.

[Shaposhnikov] The question of the oath is included in the difficulties we have been talking about. I have categorically objected to any kind of oath. I feel a new oath, a second oath, humiliates the officer and causes him deep moral trauma. Therefore, I think what took place in the Ukraine was somewhat hasty. On the other hand, servicemen cannot serve without an oath. Therefore, young soldiers who come to us today can take an oath of loyalty to the state. I have also proffered the text of an oath of loyalty to the CIS people. First it was approved, then it was canceled, and so on. There are many difficulties.

[Vedeneyeva] Today, Russia and the Russian Army are often accused of some kind of imperial ambitions in regions of national conflicts. What can you say about this? After all, the Russian Army is present there to some degree.

[Panov] It found itself there.

[Shaposhnikov] There is a question here, and this is what I would say: The Russian Army is employed as a peacekeeping force in all hot spots, and it is this presence that gives birth to the syndrome of Russia's imperial ambitions, and so on and so forth. But if we go case by case, there will be no place for such fantasies. Why? Take the Transdniestr region for example. Moldova is not a part of the CIS since it has not ratified the agreement on the CIS. There is an agreement between Russia and Moldova that the Russian Army would carry out a peacekeeping function in the Transdniestr region. It is the same in South Ossetia—there is an analogous arrangement between Georgia and Russia, and our troops are in Abkhazia at present. This is precisely the reason why I would like all of the CIS states not to wait for the flame of war to flare on their territory—whether it is for international, ethnic, religious or other reasons—but would find a simpler mechanism than the one that exists today, and which necessitates the sending of peacekeeping forces to these hot spots, such as to Tajikistan and the others. This is the common concern of us all.

[Vedeneyeva] What is going on with the creation of an alternative army?

[Shaposhnikov] Today, the Russian Supreme Soviet is dealing in a more concrete manner with the questions of

defense and building the military. A series of laws have been adopted. Some of them deal directly with military reform, and with the question you are talking about. The duration of service in the Russian Army has been reduced from two years to one, and a law on contract service has been adopted. In other words, it is a law outlining the composite principle of the Army's makeup. So, on one the hand, the law on the holy duty of serving in the Army remains. On the other hand, the law on contract service has also been adopted. Any citizen under 30 years old has the right to serve—whether it is someone who serves his term and remains on, or someone who completes his service and finds that getting a job in civilian life is not so easy nowadays but feels that he can contribute here and be fairly well provided for.

[Vedeneyeva] Do you think there will be many people willing to serve in such an army?

[Shaposhnikov] It is difficult to say, but there are such sociological surveys. It all depends on the conditions. The task today is to have at least 100,000 people serving under contract in the Russian Army this year.

[Vedeneyeva] Does it mean that people who serve for money, for pay, and maybe even a large pay, will be sent to the hottest spots?

[Shaposhnikov] If we do not manage to conclude this whole business of hot spots, servicemen will be sent there if they wish to—volunteers, in other words. Such draft laws are being worked out.

[Panov] Let us remember the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Red Army. You have the chance to directly address servicemen watching us now and the relatives of the boys serving now. If you could say a few final words....

[Shaposhnikov] Thank you. I would like to congratulate all servicemen and veterans of the Army and the Navy on the occasion of our notable holiday—the 75th anniversary of the creation of the workers' and peasants' Red Army, and wish all servicemen and veterans health and success in our profession—arduous but so necessary to our people. Thank you.

[Panov] Thank you. Let me remind you that our guest was Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Thank you.

[Shaposhnikov] Thank you.

Russian Democratic Reform Movement Lauds CIS Summit

LD2601191393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms welcomes and supports the idea of the Minsk meeting of the CIS heads of state and government to re-build economic ties among the Commonwealth member-states, says a statement issued by the movement today.

The democratic public of Russia, which expects with hope that the disintegration of statehood and the weakening of power structures will at long last be stopped, supports this tendency.

The movement expressed hope that in the interests of a further democratic process the eventual CIS summits will become a stabilising factor that will ultimately put an end to political conflicts and feuds. Thus pre-conditions will be created for stabilising the situation in the flashpoints on the territory of the former union and the economic rebirth of the CIS and the adjacent states and their equal entry into the world economic community will be ensured.

Baltic Defense Ministers Discuss Collective Security

WS2801130093 Riga LETA in English 0457 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, January 26 (LETA)—On Tuesday [26 January] a news conference on results of the visit of a delegation from French Defence Ministry and the meeting of French, Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian defence ministers took place at Latvian Defence Ministry.

According to Latvian Defence Minister, Talavs Yundzis, the visit of French Defence Minister, Pierre Joxe, indicates the willingness of superpowers to involve also small states in the collective security system of Europe.

The defence ministers of the Baltic states studied the French defence conception. The possibilities of French aid in formation of national defence forces in the Baltics were also discussed. France is ready to promote the solution on the international level of problems faced by defence forces of the Baltics as well as to help with supplies of required equipment and upgrading of the Baltic officers.

Lithuanian Defence Minister, Audrius Butkevicius, announced that the defence ministers of the Baltic states had agreed to meet in February in Tallinn and sign several agreements on cooperation. But in March a conference on Baltic strategy issues will be held. In May a joint military training is expected to be organized in the Latvian territory.

Trilateral Defense Accord Signed

WS2801130593 Tallinn BNS in English 1728 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 26 January 1993, BNS—Representatives of the three Baltic States signed a trilateral defense accord to create a permanent Baltic Council.

The military cooperation agreement followed a two-day defense seminar in Riga.

The countries also discussed the joint control of the Baltics' air space and sea frontiers, coordination for foreign assistance and coordination of military concepts. Joint manouevres of the three countries are scheduled for March 1993.

The next Baltic defense summit will take place 24 February in Tallinn.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Jan

LD2801072093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0627 GMT 28 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS - NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) has described as a sensation a statement by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at an assembly of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Alma-Ata that a CIS oil and gas ministers' meeting would be held in Tyumen.

The meeting may result in the establishment of a "mini-OPEC" within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the newspaper points out.

"Thereby, not just an 'intergration nucleus' would form inside the CIS but a club of countries capable of really monitoring the economies of neighbours by cooperating among themselves, comparing prices and political intentions," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA emphasises.

PRAVDA, pointing out a great role of the president of Kazakhstan in strengthening the integration processes in the CIS, writes that Nazarbayev favours "any initiatives to tap such an area untrodden by politicians as the restoration of the coordination of natural economic ties within the framework of not only the former Soviet Union but the former council for mutual economic assistance as well."

Nazarbayev came forward with an idea of opening an international institute in Alma-Ata for the study of the problems of the Eurasian economic space and inviting the best minds from countries of southeast Asia, Indochina, the Arab east and Central Asia to participate in its work.

PRAVDA comments on a 1993 financial and economic policy programme which the government is to present in parliament. The newspaper's opinion is that this "explanatory document," which sets out the aim of curbing the galloping inflation and saving the national currency, gives rise to distrust.

"The failure of the previous programmes and intentions to normalise our economy fostered a kind of a distrust reflex and sad thoughts about the unrealisability of good ideas," PRAVDA concludes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) raises the problem of the provision of the Russian army and navy with personnel. The newspaper's analyst Gennady Miranovich, surveying the results of the campaign of drafting into the armed forces, points out: the new academic year in the Russian armed forces began with a great shortage of personnel.

Therefore, he writes, "it will be rather difficult to avoid various dilemmas in combat training and service arrangements connected with a shortage of personnel, at least in the near future."

Lieutenant-General Yevgeny Volkov, analysing in today's KRASNAYA ZVEZDA the articles of the Start-2 treaty asks whether such deep cuts in strategic offensive arms are admissible without detriment to the country's defence capacity.

As a result of the analysis, Professor Volkov arrives at a conclusion that it is difficult to make "an unequivocal evaluation of the Start-2 treaty." "Considerable reductions in the strategic offensive arms are essential. The chief merit of the treaty is that it is aimed at ensuring such cuts," the scientist points out.

"We proceeded from a desire to help people to avert the terrible misfortune that has befallen the native land now and acted strictly in accordance with laws in an attempt to uphold the results of the referendum of March 17, 1991, the constitution of the Soviet Union and, most importantly, to preserve our union," former KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov said in an interview published in today's SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. For 17 months he has been kept in the Matrosskaya Tishina prison on charges of involvement in the case concerning the self-styled emergency committee.

"The so-called August coup plotters' case, under which I have been charged together with other comrades, is nearing completion. Time will pass and emphases on the case are sure to shift still further in the minds of an overwhelming majority of the population. But already now many see it differently from the attempted portrayal of it after the August events of 1991," Kryuchkov said.

Rutskoy Opposes U.S. 'Tactics of Force' Against Iraq

OW2701142393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy has clarified his position on Iraq in an interview with INTERFAX. "I am against the tactics of force against Iraq being employed by the USA," he stated. The Vice-President drew attention to the increased security risk of the "disproportionate and sometimes ill-conceived deployment of the U.S. armed potential," he said. "However, the USA, which is currently recognizing Russia as a world power, should at least consult her about such actions. This means not two hours before the commencement of any military action, but within the procedure set down by the UN Security Council or within the framework of bilateral consultations." The Vice-President went on to say that the Americans had hit out against Iraq virtually on their own initiative but under the banner of the UN. He said that a repeat of what was occurring in Yugoslavia must not be allowed in any other region of the world where conflicts existed, especially on the territory of the former USSR.

Rutskoy also repeated what he said in an interview with "Radio Liberty" on Saturday, January 24, regarding the possibility of Russia using her right to veto. He had in mind taking advantage of the possibilities which existed within the Security Council "not to allow the USA its own will to act in this way" anywhere in the world.

PRAVDA Views Status, Prospects of Russian-U.S. Ties

PM2801114993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 93 p 7

[Viktor Linnik article under the "Our Commentaries" rubric: "Why the Imperial Plumage on the 'Democrats'?"]

[Text] Thus, like Daniel in the Bible, the new U.S. President Clinton is being confronted with the need to divine the meaning of the mysterious "writing on the wall" in relation to Russia. There has been a natural (in view of the change of administration in Washington) break in Russian-U.S. dialogue, despite a host of telephone calls and dispatches between the Kremlin and the White House. Summarizing the public statements made by the Russian and U.S. leaders, it is easy to imagine the content of their latest "hot line" conversations:

"We should meet," Moscow says cheerily.

"Of course, of course," Washington replies equally cheerily.

"We must not break off dialogue," the Kremlin reasons.

"By no means," the White House readily agrees.

"Reforms in Russia should be helped," Moscow admonishes.

"Certainly, certainly," Washington demonstrates its total attentiveness.

"Perhaps we can reach agreement in some third country," Moscow inquires hopefully.

"If you're passing, just keep on going," the United States says very amiably on the lines of the old gag.

That is the extent of the current Russian-U.S. summit contacts. The White House incumbent's courteous and totally unobliging reaction to Russia's desire to continue the stormy romance with the United States is due to many objective and subjective factors. The new team of brilliant hicks from Arkansas needs time to get in the know. It will even be getting to know the START II Treaty from scratch—a treaty that has only just been hurriedly cobbled together—since there is not even any semblance of evidence that any experts from the Clinton administration took part in the final stages of this "deal of the century."

The far from brilliant state of U.S. domestic affairs presupposes that Clinton will be extremely cautious as far as any significant steps to offer aid to the Yeltsin government are concerned. Yeltsin has in effect received nothing but ridiculous loans from his "buddy George." All the signs indicate that in this respect Russia will meet with total continuity in U.S. policy.

A more general issue—first, the viability of Yeltsin's authority, and second, whether the United States should hang onto him—is looming before Clinton in all its repellent starkness. Clinton's advisers, THE NEW YORK TIMES develops this theme, are saying that if the United States does not bolster Yeltsin, Russia "will fall into the hands of communists, fascists, revanchist generals, and so on."

Then comes an extremely noteworthy revelation. "The struggle for power within the Russian leadership," the newspaper notes, "is a struggle to the death between the supporters of 'shock therapy' and the so-called 'gradualists.'"

That is all. We have come full circle. According to the U.S. perception, Yeltsin has fallen victim to his own self-advertisement—proclaiming that he alone had crushed the "hydra of communism" once and for all. People in opposition to Yeltsin—reasonable Communists or managers—are not necessarily antireform or anti-West. That being the case, this alternative to Yeltsin is equally acceptable to the West.

There is also an obvious miscalculation by Yeltsin's foreign policy advisers that may seriously complicate dialogue with the new White House incumbent. They have "failed to consider" the fact that Bill may regard George the same way as Boris regards Mikhail. Therefore the "gift" in the form of the START II Treaty should have been presented to Clinton himself rather than to his vindictive predecessor. What pleasure is there for Clinton in Yeltsin's carrying out Bush's request and making a solemn promise at the 3 January meeting to keep Kozyrev on as minister?

There is another prosaic reason why Russia is not eliciting more burning interest from the United States. "Since the

collapse of the Soviet Union Moscow has virtually disappeared from the world arena," Canada's GLOBE AND MAIL states the obvious. "...Yeltsin has obediently tagged along behind Western states on most international issues..."

Here we seem to be coming close to divining the latest foreign policy metamorphoses within Smolensk Square and the Kremlin. The reader has probably already noticed that Yeltsin and Co. have somewhat toughened their tone: There has been talk of U.S. "diktat," of the need to reach agreement with Iraq, condemnation of the Croatian aggression, and so on. This attempt by Russia's most pro-Western regime in the last 300 years to pose as great-power politicians [derzhavniki] is not only for internal consumption. Some quick-witted official in the Embassies' Department on Smolensk Square has seen that Clinton's interest in a summit meeting may be fanned by Russia's great-power [derzhavnyy] rhetoric. He has remembered the laws of physics—obviously, you need friction for interaction. When Russia is obliging Kozyrev-style, interest in contacts with it is minimal. Perhaps, it is worth trying obstinacy? Will these latest wiles work? That is doubtful.

Clinton's Position on Palestinian Deportees Viewed

LD2701140493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary—read by announcer]

[Text] Will the United Nations be able to take effective measures to make Israel comply with its decision on repealing the forcible deportation of more than 400 Palestinians? Here's the opinion of Radio Moscow news analyst Aleksandr Pogodin:

The deportation of the Palestinians on 17th December last was so clearly against the norms of international law that the United Nations Security Council at once sharply censured the action and demanded that Israel repeal it. What is also very important: The Security Council's decision was passed unanimously. This was one rare case when the United States joined the world community in denouncing Israel.

The hope appeared that the Israeli leaders will take notice of Washington's stand and meet the demands of the United Nations. That didn't happen, however. Hundreds of people continue to live in tents in no man's land in a zone between the territories controlled by Israel and Lebanon.

The United Nations Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali stressed that such a situation was intolerable and demanded that all necessary measures be taken to make Israel comply with the Security Council's resolution. An even tougher stand was taken, naturally, by the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization. They insisted on imposing sanctions on Israel for openly ignoring the United Nations demand.

One could in principle agree with the Palestinians' demand, but it is necessary to view the situation realistically. And it's very unlikely that the new United States Administration will support the Security Council in imposing sanctions on Israel.

Bill Clinton, of course, has to take into consideration the call for repealing the deportation of the Palestinians. But at the same time he cannot worsen the relations that have developed with the United States' major ally in the Middle East. Nor should one forget that the Democratic Party, which brought Bill Clinton to the White House, has always had a strong backing in many Jewish organizations in the United States.

On the other hand Washington can't simply ignore the opinion of the Arab countries, including the moderate ones which it considers as like thinkers, who demand repealing Israel's unlawful actions.

In such a difficult situation Washington seeks to avoid the question of sanctions against Israel being broached in the Security Council and so avoid using its right to veto which would be inevitable in that case.

From what representatives of the State Department have recently been saying it follows that all diplomatic efforts will be made to convince the Israelis to heed the voice of reason and meet the demands of the world community. And apparently the United States is capable of doing that.

The question is, however, whether all the opportunities will be taken advantage of. And very much depends on that, first of all the future of the peace settlement in the Middle East.

Yeltsin Holds Briefing Before Leaving for India

PM2701154193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[A. Kaverznev report: "Yeltsin Switches to Indian Tea"]

[Text] Today Boris Yeltsin flies out on his first official visit to India.

The aim of the visit, as described by the Russian president at a press conference in the Kremlin, is to restore the dialogue with India, which was interrupted three years ago, and to give it a new impetus.

No, Russia has experienced no antagonism or confrontation with India, Yeltsin stressed. However, in recent years factors have emerged which have clouded the once serene picture of Soviet-Indian friendship.

Let us start with the geopolitical configuration. There is no unity, it transpires, even among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership as to the place which India should occupy in Russian foreign policy. Diametrically opposed views were also expressed on this score during last week's parliamentary hearings. The crux of the disagreements is as follows. In previous years the Soviet Union regarded India as its sole strategic ally in Asia. The USSR "played the India card against so-called world imperialism and Beijing hegemonism" (this is again a quotation from the president). Some specialists and politicians think that it

should retain its exclusive status in future. But there is another standpoint, namely, that we should deideologize our relations with India and regard it as being on an equal footing with the other states of the region. In practice such a policy is already being pursued. And that presumably is the stance which Yeltsin has chosen. "We do not want to build relations on those special terms," he stated at the same press conference.

Reciprocal debts are the most important problem in our bilateral relations. India, according to Yeltsin, "is in debt to Russia for credits worth 26.2 billion rubles, while Russia is in debt to India on current settlements." The president hopes to resolve disagreements during his visit and "to sign a relevant document and settle accounts on its basis."

In all it is planned that more than 10 agreements and a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between India and the Russian Federation will be signed in Delhi.

Previews Talks

OW2701203193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin in a brief statement before flying out for an official visit to Delhi said that because of economic sanctions against Iraq, Russia's oil exports to India fell to about 600,000 tons instead of 4 Mn [million] tons.

In reply to a question from an Interfax correspondent, the president said this imbalance must be redressed. He said there was a chance of doing so even before the U.N. sanctions against Baghdad were lifted. Yeltsin spoke of preparatory work being under way but he did not elaborate. However, he said the issue would come under discussion during his visit in India.

Also high on the agenda will be the unresolved issue of mutual account-settling which led to a 50% fall in bilateral trade in the past three years, Yeltsin said. The two sides are at odds about the ruble-rupee rate. India wants to repay its debt at the 1986 ruble rate, but Russia insists on that of the end of 1990. Yeltsin said Russia was prepared to reschedule India's debt for some time.

In the meantime, he said, Russia must restore its traditionally good relations with India and certainly bring them into line with its new Asian-Pacific policies.

Yeltsin had reiterated Russia's resolve to go ahead with exports of space-related technology, including cryogenic engines, to India in line with an earlier agreement.

He denied speculation about his impending visit to Kuwait after completing talks in Delhi.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: A senior expert of the Foreign Trade Ministry in Moscow told Interfax that military cooperation would be one of the main topics of Yeltsin's talks in Delhi. Because of troop cuts and under capacity work at defense-related industries, he said, Russia is prepared to supply any amount and any range of weapons. The expert said the issue had already been discussed by the Indian side and a Russian delegation involving officials from the foreign and defense ministries and foreign trade agencies specializing in weapons exports. The Russian offer includes advanced aerospace and air defense systems and conventional weapons for ground forces.

The Russian expert said his country could offer a $800 Mn credit for Indian arms imports spread over two years. However, he gave no other detail apart from saying that credit terms would be tougher than those of the former Soviet Union and repaid in exchange for Indian commodities.

Says Visit Will Speed Relations

LD2701165193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Karmalito, Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] New Delhi January 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived on an official visit to India on Wednesday.

Yeltsin was welcomed at the airport by Indian Foreign Minister Denesh Singh and other officials.

The Russian delegation arrived "with kind heart in the sacred Indian land", Yeltsin said on his arrival. In reply to journalists' questions, Yeltsin said he had never been to this country before and therefore felt "certain excitement".

The Russian leader admitted that over the past three to four years "there have emerged several roadblocks" in bilateral relations which need to be cleared. According to the Russian president, the visit serves to speed up relations with "great India".

Speaking about the international significance of the summit meeting in New Delhi, Yeltsin said that his recent visits to South Korea and China, and now to India, bear evidence of Russian attention to the Asia-Pacific region. He drew attention to the need "to establish relations with several powerful states of the region which were disrupted or stalled at impermissibly low level."

The president said that questions of military-technical cooperation with India will be also raised during the visit.

From the airport the motorcade headed for the presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan, the residence of the head of Russian state during his stay in India.

The official programme of the visit will begin on January 28.

Talks To Restore Ties 'Gone Wrong'

LD2801060693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergei Karmalito, Yuri Sizov, and Gennady Talalayev]

[New Delhi January 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin described it as the principal aim of bilateral talks in

Delhi "to restore the level of relations with India in all fields where they have gone wrong".

Answering journalists' questions on Thursday after an official welcoming ceremony outside the presidential palace, he explained that the matter concerns primarily trade-and-economic, military-and- technical cooperation, financial and political spheres.

Explaining the essence of Russia's new foreign policy concept, Yeltsin emphasised that it is not directed against any third country.

"We are against axes, triangles, and, in general, against any blocs," the Russian leader stated. Russia bases its relations with India on the principles of mutual benefit and respect, which manifests itself in particular in the two countries' military-and- technical cooperation as well, Yeltsin said, recalling that Russia and India are peaceable states which have never warred against each other.

Attends Welcoming Ceremony

LD2801054093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Kormalito, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayevnew]

[Text] Delhi January 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in the Indian capital on Wednesday night. The official part of his visit began with a welcoming ceremony on Thursday morning.

An artillery salute marked the arrival of a motorcade escorted by mounted guardsmen at the square outside Rashtrapati Bhavan presidential palace. Boris Yeltsin was greeted by Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The national anthems of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation were played. The president of Russia reviewed a guard of honour.

Immediately after the ceremony, Yeltsin, paying tribute to tradition, visited the Rajghat memorial, which is sacred to every Indian person, and laid a wreath at the site of the cremation of Mahatma Ghandi, leader of the national liberation movement of India.

The Russian leader made the following entry in the honorary visitors' book: "With profound respect for the memory of Mahatma Ghandi, an outstanding Indian personality of the 20th century, whose ideals of humanism, non-violence and good are close and understandable to the new Russia. They directed the people's energies to the formation of an independent and powerful India as we know it today".

In the park surrounding the memorial, Yeltsin planted a seedling of a young tree—a living symbol of fruitful relations between Russia and India which enter a new stage of their development.

Thursday's programme of the visit envisages top-level talks, meetings and conversations with Indian leaders and representatives of the business community. A major event will be the signing of bilateral documents, including a treaty of friendship and cooperation, which, in the opinion of local analysts, will mark the establishment of a new international legal basis for Russo-Indian cooperation.

Meets President, Prime Minister

LD2801115393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Good morning. The attention paid by Russia to the Asian and South Pacific region has been graphically displayed by the recent visits by Boris Yeltsin to South Korea and China and now to India. Anticipating the results of the visit, Indian observers are speaking of the creation of a new international legal basis for Russian-Indian relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Before the beginning of the visit to India many did not not want to hide their bad feelings about Russia. The two countries started their friendship and trading with each other at the time of Tsar Aleksey Mikhaylovich Romanov and under the first great moghuls, to everyone's envy. Soviet-Indian relations have been an example to the rest of the world and the former Union was the most important and stable trade and economic partner.

But later on, suddenly even Indian tea became a rarity in our country. And people here began to forget what Russian oil tankers looked like and everyone started to talk about mutual debts. Then the Russian president made a trip to India's neighbors first, and only then to India and he was not even the first president of the CIS to have been received by India. And yet there are no bad feelings between our countries now. Above them is the understanding that it is time to set in motion the enormous potential which has accumulated in many decades of cooperation with Russia. It must be adjusted to real needs of the current reality of both Russia and India.

In this connection, the first question in India to the Russian president was: What are the most important spheres in which Russia and India will be building their new relations:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] These are the spheres in which our relations have flagged: cooperation in military, technical, and political spheres. [end recording]

Following a ceremonial meeting at the presidential palace in Delhi, Boris Yeltsin laid a wreath by the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. In Delhi today the Russian president met with Indian President Dayal Sharma and the republican Prime Minister Narasima Rao and representatives of the country's business circles. Then Russian and Indian talks were held, in which the leaders of major ministries and industries of both countries took part. Their results will determine the importance of the actual visit of the Russian leader to India and ways in which traditional good neighborly relations and cooperation will be developing between Russia and India.

Addresses Industrialists

LD2801125693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Bulantsev and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Delhi, 28 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—"If anyone thinks that he can prevent Russia from supplying cryogenic engines to India, then he is mistaken: no one can prevent us, we will deliver the engines." These words of Boris Yeltsin met with the applause of influential representatives of the Indian business world who organized a working lunch today in honor of the president of Russia who is here on an official visit.

Making a speech to the industrialists and entrepreneurs, Boris Yeltsin reported another piece of important news to them: "During the talks with Indian President S. D. Sharma and Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao the problem of mutual computations has been resolved." According to the president of Russia, "it is precisely this issue that has been acting as a brake on the development of Russian-Indian economic ties." "Our countries have a wealth of people and natural resources, so let us trade, let us cooperate," Boris Yeltsin appealed to the business people of India. "We will be buying light industry goods in the United Sates at twice the price that we could buy them from you in India," the head of the Russian state said.

Going on to touch on the issue of bilateral military and technical cooperation, President Yeltsin reported that during the summit talks an accord was reached not only on continuing the partnership in this sphere, but also on expanding it. Supplies from Russia of spare parts for Soviet-made military equipment with which the Indian Army is equipped will be continued, Boris Yeltsin assured those assembled. Besides that, joint enterprises will be set up to produce spare parts.

Boris Yeltsin's speech, during which he touched on many issues which are of great interest to the Indian business world, was repeatedly interrupted with applause.

Views Compromise Over Debts

LD2801125593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Karmalito and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] New Delhi January 28 TASS—In a brief ITAR-TASS interview, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is currently here on an official visit, expressed satisfaction with the compromise reached during Thursday's Russo-Indian top-level talks. He answered several questions when familiarising himself with the ancient Qutb-Minar architectural and historical complex.

Touching upon the priority of subjects discussed at the talks, Yeltsin pointed out that, judging by the length of time devoted to the discussion of mutual debt payments, the issue can be reckoned the principal one. The talks with the president and prime minister of India continued for almost five hours. "But even this is not the most important thing: The issue has not been addressed since 1985, and we decided upon it today," the Russian leader emphasised.

Asked whether this decision fully satisfies Russia, the president said: "No, it does not. This is a compromise. We were forging this compromise together with the prime minister of India, moving towards each other step by step", he added.

Yeltsin said the decision made "is not to the detriment of Russian interests". He recalled in this connection that Russia has got tens of debtors in the developing world who "do not pay their debts to her altogether", whereas India, on certain conditions, but still pays her debts.

Expected To Offer Trade Proposal

OW2701203093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2004 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations has prepared its proposals for stimulating trade with India. President Boris Yeltsin is expected to present them to the Indian side during his visit to India. On Wednesday [27 January], the Russian president arrived in New Delhi on an official visit.

The ministry proposes, in particular, to annul or bring down export duties for the commodities supplied to India. At present duties range from 5% to 70% of merchandise prices. Russia is planning to compensate for the tax cut by increasing exports.

In order to build interest among Russian enterprises to export to India, ministry experts propose to lower or abolish the existing 7.5% import duties on Indian goods.

The proposed construction of the Indian Trade Center in Moscow in the city center is expected to promote contacts with Indian private capital.

Moscow Said To Sign Military, Atomic Energy Accords With India

OW2701202593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2004 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information received by INTERFAX correspondents in Delhi from circles close to the Russian delegation, on Thursday an agreement is expected to be signed on military collaboration between the Russian and Indian governments. The document notes that, in view of the new political and military circumstances in the world, the two countries are pledging to launch military and technological collaboration stipulating that they supply special equipment, military factories, lend technological assistance in weapons production, equip military enterprises, and advance scientific and technological research and experimental design developments to form new types of defense weapons and military technology. The agreement also stipulates the preparation of military-technology

corps and the joint command of military specialists. Also planned are collaboration in the realm of military and technical development.

According to information from these sources, Moscow and Delhi, among others, plan to sign a memorandum linking the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties and India's Atomic Energy Commission. According to the memorandum Russia will help India build an atomic energy plant with two energy blocs.

Russia Proposes UN Sanctions Against Croatia

LD2801102093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0220 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 28 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Russia has proposed at the UN Security Council bringing sanctions against Croatia if the Croatian Armed Forces continue combat operations in Serbian Krajina. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by Yu. M. Vorontsov, the Russian Federation's permanent representative at the United Nations.

A consultative session of the Security Council on Wednesday, Yu. M. Vorontsov noted, heard a most worrying report from the UN secretary general that Croatia is continuing offensive operations in Serbian Krajina, disregarding resolution 802, which was adopted by the Security Council on 25 January and requires the immediate cessation of all combat operations in the region. Moreover, Zagreb responded to the inquiries of the UN secretary general and his representative by saying that it does not intend to implement this resolution. These actions have been appraised by the UN secretary general as "total noncompliance by Croatia with Security Council resolution 802," which prescribes the immediate cessation of the offensive.

In connection with the UN secretary general's report, Yu. M. Vorontsov said, the delegation of the Russian Federation issued a statement describing Croatia's actions as a direct challenge to the authority of the Security Council. The Russian representative proposed that members of the Council issue a serious warning to the Croatian authorities that if they do not comply with resolution 802 the Security Council will take other measures. Such measures imply sanctions against Croatia, Yu. M. Vorontsov explained.

At an official sitting of the Security Council following the consultations Yosio Hatano (Japan), its chairman, issued a statement on behalf of the members of the Council which contained the demand that combat operations cease immediately in Serbian Krajina and complete and immediate compliance with all the provisions of resolution 802 and other relevant Securty Council resolutions.

The statement says: "The Security Council will be following this matter with the utmost attention, specifically with the aim of considering what other steps could be needed for compliance with resolution 802 and other Security Council resolutions."

As Y. Hatano noted after the Security Council sitting, this statement is a serious warning to Croatia, because the wording "other steps" in it means sanctions.

Legislators Condemn Croatian Aggression in Krajina

LD2701215893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2135 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 [date as received] TASS—Over 30 deputies of the Russian parliament made a statement on Wednesday "on the aggression of the Croatian Army in Serbian Krajina." This document was passed over to correspondents of foreign news agencies on Wednesday.

"At the moment when the Serbian people unconditionally accepted and fulfilled all demands worked out at the Geneva conference for the soonest establishment of peace on the Yugoslav territory, 600 Serbs were killed yesterday by Croatian aggressors before the eyes of the world public indifferently watching the developments there," the statement said.

"This barbarian attack is evidence that it is not Serbs who want this war and that sanctions imposed against the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia are unjust and the introduction of these sanctions is a tragic mistake made by the world community, the statements said."

The deputies demanded "the soonest cessation of the aggression by the Croatian side, which is aimed at defenseless and unarmed people and urgent cancellations of sanctions imposed on the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia."

The statement was signed by Sergey Baburin, Vladimir Isakov, Nikolay Pavlov, Aleksandr Dzasokhov and other influential parliamentarians.

Churkin Meets Croatia's Tudjman, Voices Concern

LD2701161193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1532 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Vienna, 27 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Embassy in Zagreb has circulated the following statement for the press today. A meeting was held in Zagreb today between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. In the course of the talks, the need was stressed to renounce military means of tackling political problems of the Yugoslav crisis. Concern was firmly expressed over the safety of Russian servicemen serving in the UN forces stationed in Croatia. Vitaliy Churkin also met the command of the Russian battalion of the UN Protection Forces.

Foreign Ministry Cited on Croatian Offensive

PM2701143393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Russia Demands Introduction of Sanctions Against Zagreb and Urges Belgrade To Show Restraint—Security Council Condemns Croatia, but Not All of Its Members Share Moscow's Staunch Position"]

[Text] The very first reports about the beginning of the Croatian offensive in Krajina prompted an abrupt activation of Russian Diplomacy. On Moscow's initiative, the UN Security Council examined the situation which had emerged Monday. In a resolution adopted unanimously, Security Council members called upon the Croatian authorities to halt military activities and to withdraw troops back to the positions they occupied before the offensive began.

However, Moscow intends to go even further. "If the Croatian side fails to halt military activities against the Serbs, Russia will raise the question of introducing international sanctions in respect of Croatia," Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, in charge of Yugoslavian affairs at the Foreign Ministry, declared 25 January. Yuliy Vorontsov, Russia's permanent representative at the United Nations, expressed himself even more categorically: In the event of Zagreb's noncompliance with the Security Council resolution adopted Monday, Moscow "will demand sanctions in respect of Croatia in exactly the same volume as those which were introduced against Yugoslavia."

Russia's firm reaction to Zagreb's actions was wholly predictable. The slow drift in the Foreign Ministry's approach which has become apparent of late (partly under pressure from the opposition and parliament, and partly under the influence of foreign policy circumstances) was expressed in the hardening of Russia's position in respect of Croatia and the Muslims, and a certain mollification of it in respect of Belgrade. Even before the offensive in Krajina began, Moscow had declared repeatedly that the Croatians carry a significant share of the responsibility for exacerbating the situation in former Yugoslavia. The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that in recent months it is precisely the Croatians who, more than anybody else, have violated the ban imposed by the United Nations on flights by military aircraft over Bosnia.

The Croatian Army's offensive operations gave the Foreign Ministry cause to display the rigidity which has long been demanded from it by numerous critics. The task is further facilitated by the fact that Zagreb has blatantly acted in a way which is far from irreproachable, exacerbating the situation at the very moment when talks in Geneva on a Bosnian settlement were, it seemed, beginning to yield their first fruits. Furthermore, the international community also blames the Croatians for the deaths of servicemen from the UN contingent who were in the zone of military activities.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the Russian line to introduce comprehensive international sanctions against Zagreb will receive support in the Security Council. In the opinion of Western diplomats accredited in Moscow, the most that Washington, London, and Paris might opt for under a vote in the Security Council is the adoption of purely symbolic measures, which are in no way comparable to those sanctions operating in respect of Belgrade. And then only if the Croatians extend their offensive to all regions controlled by the Serbs.

To all appearances, the Western powers do not intend to take up a tough anti-Croatian position. In France, for instance, on the eve of the elections, the authorities will be forced to contend with public opinion, which is inclined against the Serbs. What is more, neither London nor Paris can ignore the position of their key partner in the EC—Germany, which has traditionally supported Zagreb. Likewise, it is necessary to take due account of the fact that the Croats are acting within the bounds of their internationally recognized borders, and that last year the Serbs were punished precisely because they interfered in a civil war on another state's territory.

Explaining the Russian position, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official gave to understand that Moscow will not insist on sanctions if the Croatian offensive stops. "In talking about possible coercive measures, we will strive to prevent the spread of a conflict which threatens to explode the entire peace process in the region," the staffer declared. In his opinion, one aim of the Croatian offensive is to "draw Yugoslavia into trading blows." "Among both the Croatians and the Muslims there are people who believe that any exacerbation of the situation automatically rebounds against the Serbs. Recently, the Bosnians have already tried to draw Belgrade into the conflict in this way, bombarding Yugoslav territory and dispatching diversion groups."

According to information available, Moscow will endeavor to influence Belgrade through diplomatic channels, urging the Serbian leaders to show restraint, and opposing the dispatch of Yugoslavian troops to Krajina. Efforts to influence the Croatian leadership are also being undertaken. Vitaliy Churkin will fly to Zagreb 27 January to meet with President Franjo Tudjman.

Yeltsin Remarks Put Foreign Ministry on 'Tightrope'

MK2701135093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p2

[Vladimir Abarinov article: "Yeltsin Excites the World's Curiosity, While the Russian Foreign Ministry Has To Walk a Tightrope Between President and Parliament"]

[Text] At a Kremlin press conference devoted to his visit to India, President Yeltsin also touched on a sensitive topic for the Russian leadership—the Iraq and Yugoslav crises. He was apparently not speaking off the cuff; this is a carefully considered position, and there are not likely to be any repudiating clarifications from the press secretary in this case. The ideal moment was chosen, too: the eve of the closed parliamentary hearings on foreign policy, and of the hearings on the START II Treaty organized by the "Otchizna" faction.

The president stated that Moscow's and Washington's approaches to Serbia by no means coincide, and that the time has come for a political dialogue with Baghdad. This text was uttered on the very same day as the UN Security Council decision to leave the anti-Iraq sanctions in force. However, Russia, by all appearances, is even prepared to enter into confrontation with the Security Council. The

president also excited curiosity with his statement that Bill Clinton, he believes, is also inclined to favor dialogue with Saddam Husayn. In view of the fact that no longer ago than Saturday the presidents were talking on the telephone for about 30 minutes, Boris Yeltsin's hypothesis takes on a particular relevance. Even if you bear in mind the recent briefing by Clinton's press secretary Stefanopoulos, at which he reaffirmed U.S. resolve to seek Iraq's strict compliance with UN Security Council resolutions.

It is clear to everyone that the Russian Foreign Ministry is having to walk a tightrope between reformers and conservatives in parliament. The foreign minister constantly repeats that Foreign Ministry policy is the president's policy. The president, however, has thus far refrained from making any public statements on the most sensitive foreign policy issues. A reluctance to expound his position clearly was noted at the press conference on the results of the recent Russian-U.S. summit, when the presidents were asked what conclusion they had come to after their discussion of the situation in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry has gradually been adjusting its approach, especially with regard to Serbia—for instance, Milosevic's victory was recognized de facto by Moscow even before the official election results were announced and despite reports of numerous violations of procedure. The doubts were partially dispelled following Andrey Kozyrev's statements that Russia is pursuing a "hidden veto" policy on the question of banning flights over Bosnia—in other words, it is seeking to prevent things from getting as far as a vote in the Security Council. And this stance appeared to be well balanced and realistic.

As we have seen, it was thrown off balance by the president. The reason is obvious: The sharp deterioration in the situation in the two "hot spots" is causing the patriotic deputies' stock to rise. How seriously Moscow is laying claim to the role of peacemaker, or whether this is still the same old political games within the country, remains to be seen. Let us remember that Moscow had tried before to conduct "political dialogue" with Saddam Husayn, right up until the start of "Desert Storm."

Japanese Envoy on Possible Yeltsin Visit After G-7 Talks

OW2701142693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Japan's Ambassador to Russia, Sumio Edamura, said the possibility of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan following the G-7 meeting in Tokyo next July has not been ruled out.

Speaking at the International Press Center in Moscow, Sumio Edamura said that it was early yet to talk of inviting Yeltsin to the G-7 meeting, although such an invitation is likely to be extended to the Russian president. The reason for this is that the G-7's top officials have not yet met to discuss the program of the summit.

As for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan, "This visit may be made quite successful," said the Japanese ambassador. Russian-Japanese relations go beyond the limit of the territorial dispute, he added.

He also said that Japan was shocked and disappointed when Yeltsin's visit to Japan was canceled last year. He explained this by misinformation regarding Japan's position and about the situation in that country, circulated in Moscow. Japan hoped then, that Boris Yeltsin's visit would help settle the Kuril problem, said Sumio Edamura.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 27 January, in a "Vesti" report by correspondent V. Vinogradov, adds the following: "The Moscow International Press Club today received Sumio Edamura, Japanese ambassador to Russia. For the first time since the cancellation of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan, journalists were acquainted with the Japanese Foreign Ministry's official position with extreme candor.

["The ambassador declared that erroneous information is circulating in the press on the position of Japan and on the situation there. Specifically, there is no substance in the accusation that the tough stance adopted by Foreign Minister Watanabe during his visit to Russia helped to wreck the visit. References have also appeared to some official document which the Russian side tabled at that time, which supposedly contained compromise proposals on the territorial question. When the document was presented, a highly-placed government official was cited, and so it appeared plausible. However, Watanabe, who attended all the talks, stated that such claims were wrong, since there have been no official proposals from the Russian side.

["The ambassador thinks that he has every right to reject the erroneous information out of hand, since this could only be in our two countries' interests.

["However, the impression was created that the Japanese side does not fully understand either the origins of the campaign to shift the blame for the cancellation of the visit on to Japan, or the source of the reports that appeared to the effect that Yeltsin's visit could be used for political purposes just before the elections and that the president's security could not be guaranteed. An answer to these questions is needed so that a similar situation will not arise again just before Yeltsin's possible visit to Japan in July this year."]

Japan Said Willing To Help Russia's Nuclear Disarmament

PM2701155193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Item from roundup of ITAR-TASS, EFIR-DAYDZHEST reports under the "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" rubric: "Japan Will Assist Us"]

[Text] The dismantling of Russia's nuclear weapons will be discussed at the meeting of G-7 heads of state and governments in Tokyo in July.

Japan does not intent to participate directly in the process of destroying missiles and warheads, but "would like to

make a contribution" to the Russian Federation's nuclear disarmament by preparing to provide financial and other assistance "within its powers."

Official Reports Foreign Spy Network, Officer's Arrest

OW2701205593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Security Ministry has no evidence of major leakage of radioactive materials from the country, head of the ministry's public relations department Andrey Chernyenko said at a briefing in Moscow on Wednesday. He spoke of only one incident in which eleven people were arrested on charges of attempting to ship such materials abroad.

Chernyenko also spoke of the huge damage done to the country's farming sector following fertilizer exports by about 40 companies on licences issued by the foreign trade ministry. He thinks the sector is being left to bleed for two years, and puts damages at least at about one billion dollars.

The ministry official had pointed to attempts by whom he described as some western forces to wreck Russia's security services. He spoke of about ten foundations being involved, which have branches in Russia coordinated by intelligence officers from other countries.

Chernyenko said, referring to available evidence, that some foreign intelligence services had launched a spy network in neighbouring countries, including the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

He also informed that a Russian security officer of "a fairly high rank" had been exposed on charges of contacting foreign intelligence services this year.

Chernyenko put last year's number of people detained on charges of violating CIS border controls still enforced by Russian borderguards at about 10,000. He said border troops were involved in about 60 major clashes. As many as 98 security officers were killed last year.

The security ministry employs a staff of 135,000, as compared to more than a million employed by the interior ministry. As many as 5,000 officers quit the service last year, but only 2,500 new ones were employed.

Yeltsin Holds Phone Conversation With Armenian President

OW2701172693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a short telephone conversation with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on board his flight to India Wednesday [27 January]. The Armenian president's press service reported this to Interfax. At Yeltsin's request, Ter-Petrosyan informed him of the situation in the republic due to the fuel and energy crisis.

The Russian leader assured the Armenian president that an energy commission would be formed to study the situation. Yeltsin said he and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had already "given specific instructions" on the issue. Regarding the accident in the main gas pipeline in Georgia's Marneulskiy region, which supplied Armenia, Yeltsin stressed that Russia "is doing everything possible to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future."

Grachev Meets with Canadian Ambassador

PM2701163193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, received Jeremy Kinsman, Canadian ambassador to Russia, 26 January at his request. The prospects of developing multilateral cooperation between the two states, including in the military sphere, as well as other questions of mutual interest were discussed during the conversation, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

NATO Commander Sees Russia as 'Partner'

OW2701174693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At present Russia is "our partner," particularly, in the Council of the North Atlantic Alliance, and we want to use every opportunity to further our cooperation, the Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in Europe, General John Shalikashvili, said in an interview to Interfax and Russia's Military TV on Wednesday [27 January].

General Shalikashvili is in Russia on the invitation of the Russian Defense Minister. The time of adversity between Russia and the NATO Alliance is over, he observed.

General Shalikashvili had a meeting on Wednesday with Russia's First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Chief of the General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

The NATO commander said he had come to Moscow to meet with those he used to know in the past and establish new contacts with the Russian government. While in Moscow, he intends to discuss the prospects of cooperation between NATO and Russia "as equal partners," the general said, noting that the issue of Russia's membership in the Alliance has never been addressed.

Answering Interfax's query about the future of the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union, General Shalikashvili said he was content with the signing of the START-2 treaty between Russia and the US, emphasizing that it should be ratified as soon as possible on both sides of the Atlantic in order that Ukraine would also be able to joint the treaty.

Measures To Protect Citizens in Georgia Urged

PM2701173193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Litvinov and Sergey Prokopenko: "Talks Are Proceeding, But Attacks on Military Units Are Continuing"]

[Text] The beginning of the third round of Russian-Georgian talks, which has started in Tbilisi, was marred by the deaths of Russian servicemen.

To remind you, an armed detachment numbering up to 60 men carried out an attack on the fourth storage depot in Tbilisi 22 January. The bandits were dressed in camouflage uniforms.

During the attack, Russian Border Guards Privates Kokorkin and Goloskokov were mortally wounded. A total of 74 assault rifles, two Dragunov sniper rifles, seven machineguns, 29 pistols, two tank trucks, and a large quantity of ammunition were seized. The attackers, who arrived at the scene of the incident in four trucks, disappeared.

On 25 January the Georgian Foreign Ministry sent an answering note to the Russian Federation Embassy in connection with this incident. In particular it expresses deep sympathy for the families and friends of the servicemen who died. At the same time, the note says, the Georgian Foreign Ministry views the incident as an act of banditry aimed at worsening Georgian-Russian relations.

Indeed, there are forces in Georgia which are interested in wrecking the process of the normalization of relations between the two countries. Events of recent weeks can confirm this. During this period various armed formations have carried out attacks on the materials base of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus and on medical stores. Not to mention thefts of equipment which have, depressingly enough, become the norm. The authorities are not taking any effective measures to put a stop to this lawlessness. It must be admitted that they are sometimes not in a position to do anything anyway. The war in Abkhazia, the deep crisis that has hit the republic's economy and caused an increase in crime—all this should urge the Georgian Government to conclude a treaty with the Russian Federation as quickly as possible.

However—and this should not be forgotten—Russia has its own interests in the Transcaucasus. Therefore the talks must focus on the status of the Russian Army in Georgia and on ensuring the security of the servicemen and the members of their families, property, and weapons. But, in our belief, any self-respecting country sitting down at the negotiating table in the face of such lawlessness with respect to its compatriots has the right to demand real and effective measures for their protection. There are many examples in contemporary history of countries resorting to fairly drastic measures to ensure the protection of their citizens.

Under no circumstances are we appealing for the use of force. As life shows, this is the road to deadlock. However, Russia has the right to ensure, and should ensure, the security of its citizens.

Special Envoy Feliks Kovalev, the leader of the Russian Federation state delegation at the talks in Tbilisi, has described the talks as constructive, expressing satisfaction at the Georgian leadership's assurances concerning the investigation of the circumstances of the attack on the Russian border guards, and its promises to expose and punish the culprits.

Well, life will show how serious these assurances are.

Ambartsumov Views Foreign Affairs Issues

AU2801093393 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 25 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Council's Committee on International and Foreign Economic Issues, by Laszlo Vida in Moscow; date not given: "Consensus Is Being Formed in Moscow's Foreign Policy—Says Yevgeniy Ambartsunov, Chairman of the Russian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee"]

[Text] "I find the shift of emphasis in Russian foreign policy satisfactory," Yevgeniy Ambartsumov told MAGYAR NEMZET. We first asked Ambartsumov—who is generally rather critical of [Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev's diplomatic steps—whether we can say that parliament is trying to establish some kind of separate foreign policy line.

[Ambartsumov] I am convinced that a unified foreign policy concept is needed. I am against the various government offices, the presidential administration, and the Supreme Council producing different concepts. According to the current Constitution, the Congress of People's Deputies is authorized to draft the basic principles of domestic and foreign policy. As a permanent body of the congress, the Supreme Council fulfills a legislative and supervisory function and it has to see whether the government's policy corresponds to parliament's requirements. At the same time, it is not the committee's task constantly to challenge the Foreign Ministry. This would run contrary to Russia's international interests. However, I welcome the fact that certain concrete manifestations of Russian foreign policy are being modified as a result of the foreign committee's steadfastly repeated observations. The level of our cooperation with the Foreign Ministry is increasing, they are involving us in the preparation of decisions more than hitherto, and we also often invite Kozyrev and his deputies. For example, the foreign minister's hearing by the committee will be on 26 January, which again promises to take place in a heated atmosphere. I am in favor of criticism that is based on sober considerations and Russia's national interests, and I shall try to have my proposals accepted.

[Vida] Does this mean that you will not urge Kozyrev's resignation, which is almost an everyday issue at Supreme Council sessions?

[Ambartsumov] No, I respect the president's views. I will work together with the foreign minister whom he appoints. In fact, I told both [President] Yeltsin and Khazbulatov that, of the alternatives that have emerged, I would prefer to keep Kozyrev.

[Vida] Many people are saying that the Supreme Council is pushing for a more conservative foreign policy than hitherto.

[Ambartsumov] Is it also a sign of conservatism if Hungary defends the Hungarian minority's rights in Romania more actively? We cannot be indifferent to the fate of our fellow-countrymen who have found themselves outside our borders. Recently, Yelstin actually rebuked Kozyrev for his excessive friendliness to the United States. It is a mistake to believe that the increased emphasis of Russia's independent international role and of its own national interests is a conservative attitude. The fact that the right-wing and the left-wing are uniting on the basis of nationalism is not necessarily an expression of conservatism, but represents rather a kind of feeling of injury. The general public feels regret at the realization that Russia has become weaker as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and that everyone is jumping at it and trying to acquire territories from it. This hurts the Russian national consciousness.

[Vida] Russian foreign policy has become more marked as regards the Yugoslav issue. However, Kozyrev has recently said that he would not like Moscow to have to use its veto in the Security Council on the issue of armed intervention.

[Ambartsumov] I would not exclude this possibility. However, Kozyrev and Churkin have done a lot to prevent such a situation. The positions of the extremists have been shaken on all sides and we are pleased to see that the outlines of a peaceful settlement are beginning to emerge, although it will not be easy to implement the agreements. In my view, the Supreme Council's December decision on Yugoslavia, which directed the Foreign Ministry to prevent intervention in Yugoslavia even by a veto made a profound impression on the community of nations and the West, and it helped Kozyrev to make his negotiating partners understand that armed intervention would not be permissible. My personal experiences at the London conference show that the West is capable of revising its views. The most important thing is, and here our goals might coincide with Hungary's goals, that we should achieve a settlement by political means, avoiding the escalation of the war.

[Vida] What are your views on the situation in Iraq and Moscow's reaction to it?

[Ambartsumov] I have no doubt that Husayn's regime is despotic and inhumane. The sooner he is overthrown the better. The United States has missed its opportunity and now it is shaking its fist in vain. In addition, the latest retaliatory actions also caused civilian victims, which made a bad impression on Moscow as well as elsewhere. A political solution must be found.

[Vida] The minister for foreign economic relations recently suggested that the community of nations should compensate Russia for its losses resulting from joining the sanctions against Libya, Iraq, and Yugoslavia. How realistic is this?

[Ambartsumov] It is possible. I actually have doubts as regards the $16 billion mentioned by Glazev [position not specified], but we did sustain actual losses and, according to the 50th Paragraph of the United Nations Charter, we could ask for compensation for these, although the reference to this is rather vague. The financial crisis of the United Nations Organization is no secret to us, but the United Nations could forward our request to the seven industrially most developed countries. Everything depends on the will of the West....

[Vida] However, you have not even received the billions promised by the West in 1992.

[Ambartsumov] Hardly more than $1 billion has been given to us out of the $24 billion. This miserliness, this supposed careful consideration, is actually shortsightedness. They are producing arguments for the "national-patriotic" opposition, which is already claiming that, under America's leadership, the outside world has conspired against Russia. The tight-fistedness of the West is contributing to this kind of attitude and ordinary citizens are also beginning to agree with these views.

[Vida] START-2 will be a good excuse for those people who are talking about conspiracy.

[Ambartsumov] Ratification will be a lengthy and complicated process, but I hope that parliament will eventually approve the agreement. Unlike the opposition, I would not say in advance that we have given unilateral concessions to the Americans. We have to consider all the consequences of the reduction in terms of the reduced capability of the sides to defend themselves. Certainly, the destruction of our heavy missiles [adjective as published], those considered to be the most dangerous, is putting us on our guard.

[Vida] What are your views on the prospects for the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]?

[Ambartsumov] The prospects are not unclouded although a small number of the member states appear willing to cooperate in more areas than before. The tendencies toward both disintegration and integration can be seen at the same time. But I am not very confident that the CIS, especially in its current form, is going to last very long.

[Vida] Russian-Ukrainian relations continue to be tense, and the main reason is that the territorial issue is constantly being raised by Moscow, especially by parliament.

[Ambartsunov] Life itself has raised this issue: Most people living in the Crimea do not wish the peninsula to belong to Ukraine. The conflict would be eased if we could come to an agreement with Kiev on the recognition of dual citizenship. The Crimea has never belonged to Ukraine. Nevertheless, there is no point in forcing the matter; it is more important than anything else to have friendly relations with Ukraine and the two peoples must not be made to oppose each other. If everything goes well, we will be able to resolve this issue in calmer circumstances later. Why could we not create a condominium or, as Aksyonov suggested it, an independent Crimea?

Political & Military Issues

Yeltsin Enacts Personnel Changes

OW2701143793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian president's press service announced, on Wednesday [27 January], that Boris Yeltsin had freed Arkadiy Veprev from his duties as Head of the Administration of the Krasnoyarsk territory, at Veprev's request. The responsibilities of the Head of the Krasnoyarsk Administration will be temporarily performed by Zubov.

Also, Boris Yeltsin appointed Vladimir Volodin and Sergey Yushchenkov to the posts of First Deputy Directors of the Federal Information Center. Earlier, Volodin had headed former Vice-Premier Mikhail Poltoranin's, secretariat. Now, Poltoranin is in charge of the Federal Information Center. Sergey Yushchenkov is a people's deputy and a leader of the Democratic Choice faction.

Intelligence Chief Primakov on Nuclear Weapons Industry

LD2801132793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1253 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—"As a rule, Russian experts, employed in the nuclear weapons industry, are not eager to go to any other countries. The danger is posed by specialists working in adjacent areas. They may be used abroad for organising the production of separate parts for nuclear weapons," director of the Russian External Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov told a press conference at the Russian Foreign Ministry here today. "Neither we, nor our partners, possess information that our specialists are already working in this area," Primakov added.

"However," it was noted by Gennadiy Yevstafiyev, department chief in the Russian External Intelligence Service, "if Russia and the international community fail to exert sufficient efforts shortly to ensure normal conditions for the life of these scientists, to raise their status, we may be confronted with a situation when some of them may try to go to some foreign countries."

The head of the Russian intelligence further said that there were no thefts of nuclear weapons or nuclear materials from Russia or other CIS countries.

Asked about reported attempts to smuggle radioactive substances out of Russia, Yevstafiyev confirmed that there were, indeed, some such attempts by individuals or even whole structures. "This is mainly done at amateur level," he said, "but there were attempts to organise channels for smuggling them out of the country. "One of these channels, without doubt, runs through Poland," Primakov noted.

Referring to data received not only from intelligence sources, but also from scientific circles, Primakov said that there was no such thing in existence as red mercury, about which the press had written so much. "At the same time," he noted, "that deals, involving large amounts of money, were recorded lately. According to information gleaned by the Russian External Intelligence Service and several European special services, "they were concluded by merging mafiosi structures, which wanted to launder their money in this way, including profits made on narcobusiness".

Primakov said that he did not receive any official invitation to visit the United States so far. He said that the Russian intelligence was not informed in advance about the strikes at Iraq, although the take-off of planes and missile launchings were recorded, of course.

Speaking about his attitude to defectors from the Russian special services to the West, who were recently described as heroes by some people, Primakov said: "Traitors are always traitors, and there are traitors everywhere. As a matter of fact, there was not a single case when a defector, who has betrayed his cause, his oath and comrades, had done it for political reasons."

Government To Disclose Nuclear Waste Dumping Sites

OW2701174093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A government commission has recently completed looking into the issue of nuclear waste dumping in Russian seas and now is due to reveal some data on the issue, earlier classified. This statement was made today by the Russian State Advisor for Environmental Protection and Health Care, Aleksey Yablokov, at a conference on ecological issues.

Yablokov said that for many years, obsolete reactors had been dumped in the Kara and Barents seas in great secrecy. Most dumping sites are situated at the Novozemelskoye shoal where the total level of radioactivity at the moment of dumping was 2,5 Mn [million] curie.

Yablokov noted that Russia did not have the necessary facilities for processing and safely dismantling nuclear reactors. To dispose of old reactors, Russia will have to spend dozens of billions rubles.

Government Said To Increase Servicemen's Salaries

OW2701204493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2005 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reliable sources have told INTERFAX that the Russian government today adopted a decision to increase salaries for the servicemen by 2.8 times starting January 1st. Prior to this, the average salary of servicemen was 12,000-16,000 rubles a month.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Article on Servicemen's Status Refuted

LD2601144293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The press service of the Russian president issued the following statement on Tuesday [26 January]:

"The newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA of January 26 1993 frontpaged the article 'Awaiting the President's Signature'. The article says that the law 'on the status of servicemen' as well as other laws concerning social welfare of Army personnel are awaiting the president's signature.

This information does not correspond with reality. The president attaches top priority to the law protecting the interests of the military and members of their families. Such documents are always given the green light in the president's office.

The 'military package' laws mentioned in the article have not been submitted to the Russian president for signing from the Supreme Soviet. Therefore, the problem is not in the president's signature, but in that documents which are so necessary for the military should be discussed in the Supreme Soviet more promptly."

Security Ministry Briefing on Achievements, Foreign Agents

LD2701185993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1814 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—The Russian Security Ministry held a briefing on Wednesday to sum up the results of work of the Ministry over the past year.

According to Ministry Spokesman Andrey Chernenko, the Russian Security Ministry, set up on January 24, 1992, prevented illegal exports from Russia of 20 billion roubles' worth of licensed materials, including petroleum, petroleum products, non-ferrous and rare earth metals, timber, fertilizers, foodstuffs and medicine.

It prevented theft of 4.5 billion roubles in Russia and 2 billion roubles in Ukraine. Frontier guards confiscated 100 million roubles' worth of smuggled goods and detained some 8,000 border violators. A total of 2,500 bribe takers were arrested, including in the Moscow and St. Petersburg mayor's offices, among top officials of the USSR Savings Bank, generals of the Russian Armed Forces, and the central apparatus of the Russian Interior Ministry.

By comparison, the number of detected foreign agents (20) was modest. Therefore Aleksandr Gurov, director of the Institute of Problems of the Security Ministry, said the Ministry, while combatting crime, must not forget its main goal - countering foreign secret services.

There is evidence to suggest that the latter build up their operations. "Foreign representatives, who include many foreign agents, have practically an unlimited access to bodies of power and administration at various levels, as well as to places where state and military secrets of Russia are concentrated," the Ministry said in its press release.

Chernenko told the briefing about an intensive campaign by western secret services aimed at disorganising the Security Ministry, putting it under their influence. "There are at least a dozen funds with branches in Russia," he said, "which offer their own 'recipes of reorganising' the Security Ministry, and which are consulted by career officers of secret services."

The briefing was also told that some 20 billion dollars are annually stashed in foreign countries thanks to various machinations. The largest shipment of contraband radioactive materials was 100 kilogrammes of enriched uranium. In the past year 5,000 people left service with state security bodies, which number 135,000 people, and 2,500 were enrolled.

Volskiy Comments on Industrial Union's Role

PM2701162893 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, by Laure Mandeville in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] [Mandeville] For most observers of the Russian political scene, you remain an enigma, an eminence grise, inspiring the military-industrial complex lobby behind the scenes. What interests do you really represent?

[Volskiy] I have grown accustomed to all the names which the press attaches to me. But, in reality, the kind of organization which I head, the Union of Industrialists, exists in all countries, especially France, where it is called the National Council of French Employers. Our aim is the same: To defend the interests of industrialists. In Russia, under the tsars, the Union of Industrialists formed in 1895 already played a considerable role. The imperial family, the government, and the Duma all listened to its advice. And no law was passed without it being consulted. When we formed our union two and a half years ago, we modeled it on the Imperial Union of Russian Industrialists. None of the 19 foreign examples we studied was suitable.

[Mandeville] Is there a Russian industrial path?

[Volskiy] No foreign model, no foreign experience is suitable for Russia. We must take account of the specific character of our state, its huge territory, its backward infrastructures.

[Mandeville] Do you think that it is the importance of the state in the economy which makes Russia's specific industrial character?

[Volskiy] The percentage of the economy which will remain under state control does not interest me at all. It is 18 percent in France and 54 percent in Italy, but does this mean that people have a worse standard of living in Italy? The main thing is that state production is working in a competitive economy.

[Mandeville] What is your main task?

[Volskiy] We are carrying out a great deal of industrial lobbying of parliament. When I say lobbying, I am talking of an activity which is widespread in other countries. We are working with 55 deputies who are arguing in favor of laws which do not need to be reviewed at the end of a year.... We are also working a great deal to strengthen the International Union of Industrialists—an organization which has 20 member countries. It contains the 15 former republics of the USSR, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czechs, and the Slovaks....

[Mandeville] Are you recreating transnational economic ties?

[Volskiy] The economic ties which existed among the enterprises of the whole Eastern bloc have been severed. The severing of these client-supplier relations are responsible for 60 percent of the fall in production. We are doing all we can to restore them, without taking account of the quarrels among our states. The economy must not be the hostage of politics.

[Mandeville] You criticized Yegor Gaydar for the fall in production. He retorted that it was mainly due to the downturn in the military sector....

[Volskiy] He is partly right. The drop in military orders was 67 percent. But in 1992, production dropped by 26 percent in Russia, and 40 percent in Ukraine. That cannot just be explained by the military. The collapse of links between enterprises, the customs war, that is the cause of the problem. That is why my Union and that of the Ukrainian industrialists jointly launched an appeal to Yelstin and Kravchuk during their summit. Enough time has been wasted in wondering who is the strongest. While they divide up the fleet, the economy is dying.

The Nation's Gene Bank

[Mandeville] Many people say that you represent only part of industry—essentially the military-industrial complex?

[Volskiy] The complex makes up 20 percent of our members. It is a considerable proportion but one which corresponds to the national situation. There are 1,500 enterprises in Russia which are working for the military, in other words 7.5 million workers. We cannot ignore them, decide overnight to send them into liquidation.

[Mandeville] What is the attitude of factory managers to this crisis?

[Volskiy] They are looking for a way out. They know that they will not start producing cooking pans. Our industry is our nation's gene bank. We must save it.

[Mandeville] Is Yegor Gaydar's replacement by Viktor Chernomyrdin your victory?

[Volskiy] Victory, defeat. It sickens me when all questions are boiled down to these words: Who won last December, the president or parliament? We must put an end to these political struggles. For the man in the street, it is the same team.

[Mandeville] You refuse to take part in the quarrel between Boris Yeltsin and parliament?

[Volskiy] We are centrists. Industrialists cannot be on the right or the left. They have to be in the center. That is the only way we can work.

[Mandeville] For Gennadiy Burbulis, the centrists in the Civic Union embody the interests of the old Communist Party nomenklatura.

[Volskiy] How can he talk like that, when he was professor of Marxism-Leninism! The people were Communists, that is true. So what? The man who spits on his past has no future.

[Mandeville] How can the current political crisis be solved?

[Volskiy] Certainly not by the referendum which we are being offered. I have had a glimpse of the questions which people want to submit for the population's approval. They are extremely technical! Who will understand? The old woman in the polling booth? I am convinced that the people will not vote on such questions. Parliamentary and presidential elections must be held.

[Mandeville] Are you in favor of a strong presidential power?

[Volskiy] Our president should have greater powers than in an ordinary country. As for whether there will be a presidential republic.... If you ask an ordinary Russian whether he prefers a presidential or parliamentary republic, he will reply with a torrent of insults! The people cannot be asked to decide. We must reach agreement among ourselves, bring together experts, and set up a political roundtable. The transition took place peacefully in Czechoslovakia, because the politicians sat down round a table.

[Mandeville] Do the Russian extreme nationalist parties represent a force for the future?

[Volskiy] I do not think so. The term "patriot" has been discredited by those people. They only win a few votes. I am much more worried by the resurgence of the Russian Communist Party, which will hold its congress in February. According to my information, meetings of grassroots organizations are being held throughout the country. Such a party could easily attract discontented people, bring together at least 500,000 people. That is a large number, when you realize that the biggest party at present—Nikolay Travkin's Democratic Party of Russia—only has 50,000 members.

Economic & Other Issues

Chernomyrdin: Ruble Exchange Rate 'Major Problem'
LD2801100093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0940 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—The ruble exchange rate is a "major problem" for the government, however it

is not going to settle it by administrative methods, according to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"The government will not underatke any power and unthought steps" in strengtrening the ruble exchange rate, he told legislators on Thursday. This, evidently, means that Russia will not return to several exchange rates which existed in the former Soviet Union.

The ruble reacted promptly to Chernomyrdin's statement and slipped only slightly at the Moscow's Interbank Currency Exchange on Thursday reaching 572 to the dollar. Earlier in January the ruble used to fall by dozens of points over a week.

Chernomyrdin also said that the "shock therapy" method and the monetarist policy of his predecessor Yegor Gaydar failed in 1992.

Chernomyrdin Promises To Continue Farm Subsidies

LD2701172393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—The Russian Government's resolution "on urgent measures of financial support to the agro-industrial complex of the Russian Federation" "was necessitated by the difficult situation in the village and the approaching sowing season," Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an ITAR-TASS interview after Wednesday's meeting of the presidium of the Council of Ministers.

The document, the Russian premier continued, provides for "rendering large financial assistance to the agro-industrial complex". Chernomyrdin emphasised that the government will "provide additional subsidies to Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes and farmers."

"It is very important that all agricultural producers will be subsidised," he said adding that subsidies will be also used to pay for fuel, fertilizers, equipment and construction.

Chernomyrdin said that another document will be passed to elaborate a mechanism for the implementation of the decision on financial assistance to the agro-industrial complex. In particular, it envisages guarantees by agricultural producers to repay large government subsidies.

Asked about a candidate for the post of vice premier for agriculture, Chernomyrdin said several candidates had been discussed. The head of the Russian cabinet stressed: "I would like a reform-minded, respected man with good knowledge of the village to take this post."

Government To Change Agricultural Subsidy System

OW2701174293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian government passed a resolution on emergency measures to financially support the agricultural sector, stipulating that the subsidies on meat, milk, and egg production which were introduced in May, 1992, be maintained. However, according to the document, in the future the government plans to replace the livestock breeding subsidies with guaranteed state prices on meat, milk, and eggs.

Experts feel that changes in the mechanism for supporting farmers will enable budget funds to be effectively utilized, which is confirmed by the experiences of several Western nations.

The resolution passed by the government stipulates that state organs adopt measures to support parity between prices on agricultural and industrial products, which was grossly violated after prices were liberated. They plan to develop proposals on forming an extra-budgetary fund to support agriculture by introducing a program which would tax enterprises and organizations of all forms of ownership 3% of the revenues received from their goods and services.

Discussing the resolution at Interfax's request, head of the government's agricultural industry sector Aleksandr Kalinin said that the resolution's implementation would cost 168 Bn [billion] rubles more than the amount allotted in the draft of the budget plan.

He feels the document adopted by the Council of Ministers is not of an anti-market nature and does not represent a return to the former system of agricultural subsidization, since all the subsidies are addressed to specific goods and "are accounted for right down to each specific farm."

Government Privatizes 19 Percent of Enterprises

LD2701135193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to the State Committee on Statistics, about 19 percent of all enterprises in Russia were privatized by the beginning of this year. It was originally planned to privatize about 50 percent. It has proven possible to float shares for 2,376 major and medium-scale enterprises.

Nechayev Predicts 'More Favorable' Economic Situation

LD2801104293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—The situation in Russia will be "more favourable" in 1993 if the government succeeds to urgently stabilise finances, according to Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev.

"There are grounds to believe that the situation in the current year will be more favourable", he told legislators on Thursday, adding that it is necessary to strengthen the first positive signs in the development of production which appeared at the end of 1992.

Tough monetary policy will allow to slow down the rate of price growth by the end of the first quarter of the year, the minister promised, but warned that if inflation remains at the January level, the forecast and the whole budgetary system will have to be considerably revised.

However, the "moderate-optimistic" forecast of the minister, as he called it, shows that industrial slump will remain big, but smaller than in 1992.

Decrease in oil production will total 50 million tonnes which is less that the predicted 75 million tonnes, Nechayev said. The rate of the slump will reach seven per cent compared to 19 last year. Electric power engineering and chemical industries will begin to work stably in 1993, he said, adding that the decrease in agricultural production will slow down considerably.

Agriculture and fuel and energy complex are priorities for budget appropriations, according to the minister. "Without stabilisation in the oil and gas production we shall face a very difficult situation in the whole complex of problems as the economy greatly depends on imports", he explained.

Conversion of defence enterprises will also be in the focus of attention. 13 major conversion programmes have been worked out and are expected to yield considerable economic effect this year. The growth of production at converted enterprises will be worth 226 billion roubles, Nechayev said.

Better economic relations with the Commonwealth states also allow to predict an improvement in the situation. Mutual shipments of goods between them will increase, the minister predicted.

Although the government abandoned obligatory state orders for enterprises this does not mean that the state completely refuses to regulate production. Federal programmes will be implemented in 1993 according to the law on shipments of products for state needs, Nechayev said.

Nechayev Confirms Drive To Demilitarize Economy

LD2801133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Russian economy minister told parliament here today that the federal programme of restructuring the Russian economy in the next three years, as well as the longer- term programme until the year 2000 which is now in the works, proceeded from the intention to combine strategic tasks of demilitarizing the economy and giving it a stronger social bias with tactical tasks of maintaining or even rescuing the country's fuel and energy complex, which might otherwise become an oil importing instead of oil exporting industry.

Asked about the dynamics of the share of production investments in the total volume of the country's gross product in 1992-1993, Nechayev said that last year the budget investments from the consolidated budget amounted to 550 billion roubles out of 2.4 trillion roubles of overall investments, with the gross product reaching 15 trillion roubles. In 1993, the volume of budget investment will amount to 1.7 trillion roubles, including 1.3 trillion roubles from the republican budget, the gross product volume is expected to reach 4 trillion roubles. The total amount of capital investments is expected at a level of 7 trillion roubles. These means that the share of investments in the total volume of the gross domestic products will equal one-seventh part.

Nechayev said easy credits have proved to be more effective than capital investments, according to a selective analysis.

Nechayev said he was optimistic about food supplies as agreements have been signed with a number of Commonwealth members countries on food supplies, including with Kazakhstan on grain and Ukraine on a variety of foodstuffs.

Budget Deficit Planned at Over 3 Trillion Rubles

LD2801131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—The deficit of the Russian federal budget is planned at 3.492 trillion rubles in 1993 and defence appropriations continue to grow, according to Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk.

Planned revenues are expected to total 17.5 trillion rubles and spendings—some 20.7 trillions, he told legislators on Thursday.

To increase revenues Barchuk asked the parliament to avoid introducing taxation priviliges and increase the value added tax by three per cent.

The vat was decreased from January 1993 and this would cut budget proceeds by 2.5 trillion rubles, but hardly affect the price hikes, the minister explained.

He also called to revise the income tax rate for individuals and increase it for private traders.

Social expenditures comprise 54.5 per cent of budgetary appropriations. Most finances go to increase salaries to the military (718 billion rubles), agriculture (557), wages for police (329), pensions for retired officers (143), state internal and external debt (570) and science (216).

The minister acknowledged that defence appropriations continue to grow in 1993 and a special control department is being instituted to control the defence budget.

Fuel Prices To Be Liberalized 'Gradually'

PM2801115593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Russian Government To Gradually Liberalize Coal Prices"]

[Text] The Russian Government will pursue a policy of gradually liberalizing coal prices. This was stated by Russian Deputy Premier Yuriy Yarov, who has been visiting the Kuzbass. He believes that free prices for fuel would currently lead to minimum apartment rents of 5,000 rubles a month. Therefore, when examining the question of pricing energy sources, Yuriy Yarov stressed, the government will definitely take account of the population's ability to pay, so as to rule out any increase in social tension in society.

Industrial Output Down; Future Depends on Government

LD2701234793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In the past year, industrial output in Russia fell by 25 percent, and the decline will continue in the next few months. This forecast has been given by Anatoliy Milyukov, head of the team of economic consultants for the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. In his interview, he explains this by the severance of traditional economic ties with the former republics of the USSR, and also by breeches of economic discipline. In his words, a lot depends today on whether the government is able to take the management of the economy into its own hands. If it succeeds, a certain stabilization, and even active movement, on the economic scene can be expected by May, Milyukov believes.

Rutskoy Addresses Agro-Industrial Trade Union

LD2701150393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—The Russian Government has decided to allocate 250 million dollars to set up small-scale complexes for food processing, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy said on Wednesday.

Rutskoy, who addressed a plenum of the agro-industrial trade union, also said that he and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had agreed to establish a post of vice premier for agriculture and food. The name of the new vice premier will become known after Rutskoy's meeting with Chernomyrdin on Thursday.

The vice president said that land utilisation system, which has all but ceased to exist recently, needs to be overhauled. Major changes should be also made in the system of agricultural financing. Instead of massive subsidies, Rutskoy continued, the government should grant purpose-oriented funds to finance agricultural production on the basis of futures deals. A relevant government resolution will soon be signed, he said.

Special attention should be paid to organising an effective system of storage and processing of farm produce, of which "40 to 50 per cent are lost". The vice president called for establishing small- and medium-scale processing complexes to cut down these losses.

Rutskoy declared that the new Russian leadership is fully aware of the problems of agriculture, its workers and is concerned about the situation in the agricultural complex. This is evidenced by a resolution of the Council of Ministers on urgent anti-crisis measures that was adopted on Wednesday, he said.

Rutskoy Comments on Struggle Against Crime

MK2701144193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 5, 31 Jan 93 (Signed to press 26 Jan) p 4

[Unattributed report under the "Monitoring" rubric: "Quotation: '...Look at the Criminal Code—It's Not a Code But a Set of May Day Slogans... We Are Spending Our Whole Time Trying To Create Laws To Fit the Declaration of Human Rights, While the Criminal World Should Be Being Mercilessly Punished...'"]

[Text] Radio Liberty has launched a new program called "Face to Face." The hero of last Sunday's debut was Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. The sensational news, already disseminated by the news agencies, was his statement that Russia should apply the UN right to veto military action against Iraq. Among the lesser (meaning local) sensations we should note the fact that the vice president has clearly made his peace with the president and intends to tackle the struggle against crime and corruption with his characteristic tenacity. Answering a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI question as to whether this means that he is being taken away from land reform, Aleksandr Rutskoy resolutely answered: "No way!" Moreover, he considers that his experience of archive work, which helped him to form a clear picture of the merits and demerits of Russian agrarian reforms from 1861 on, will prove useful in his new activity.

As is known, Boris Yeltsin gave the vice president this new assignment in October, when he noted at the Supreme Soviet that "it is necessary to launch a powerful offensive against crime, the mafia, and corruption." A group under the leadership of Rutskoy, Filatov, Burbulis, and Skokov was tasked with being in charge of this work. Now "some of these are long gone...," but the vice president has not forgotten his assignment. He has already started analyzing the situation, including in the historical aspect, and stated that the president has scheduled an all-Russia conference of law-enforcement agency personnel for 12 February. Aleksandr Rutskoy stresses that he does not intend to "treat this question as a joke." But the struggle with crime and corruption should begin, in his view, with the creation of normal economic relationships in society.

Thanks to a kind invitation from Radio Liberty, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI has received the substantial recently published brochure "Agrarian Reform in Russia" as a gift from the vice president and has learned that Aleksandr Rutskoy is working on two new books. One will be a study of the struggle against corruption and crime, the other is entitled "Liberal Reforms Mean Strong Authorities."

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1714 GMT on 27 January adds the following: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin should 'within days' be signing a decree on the

formation of a working group of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Campaign against Crime. This announcement was made by Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy at the at the plenum of the Central Committee of the Agricultural Workers' Trade Unions Wednesday [27 January]. He said that the group would be developing a new legislative base since the present one 'lacked any mechanism for the prevention of crime.'

["Rutskoy considered that corruption today had permeated 'practically all power bodies at all levels' and that it was therefore essential to formulate 'decisive steps which were comprehensible not only to the Russian government but also to the population in general.' These steps would be announced, the vice- president said, at the nationwide conference of representatives of law and order bodies February 12. The conference would be opened by President Yeltsin.

["Rutskoy announced that heavy losses had been incurred by the state because of forged credit advice notes. 'But now the joke is over,' he warned. 'Ten per cent of the population will no longer be permitted to feed off society's back when the other ninety per cent can hardly make ends meet.'"]

Referendum Commission Decides on 89 Election Districts

LD2701172693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Central Commission for the Russian Referendum has decided to form 89 election districts covering all the republics and territories of the Russian Federation and separate ones for Moscow and Petersburg. The key provisions of the new constitution will be put to vote during the referendum on 11 April.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Wants '94 Elections Included in Referendum

OW2701154193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has proposed elections to representative and executive power bodies on all levels in spring, 1994, to be included in the April 11 referendum in addition to the main provisions of the new constitution. He made this statement at a meeting with young politicians from the "Forum-90" movement in Moscow Wednesday [27 January]. "Forum-90" is an association of several Russian youth organisations.

The speaker was of the opinion that by doing this the deputies would prove that they were not "grabbing at power." Khasbulatov considered that this kind of question would persuade more people to take part in the referendum since there was "nationwide discontent with all branches of power and not just with separate ones."

Khasbulatov expressed his fear that the April referendum would not take place in several regions of Russia and that this would place the legitimacy of the Federative Treaty-"our great achievement"-under doubt.

The head of parliament confirmed his reservations on the passing of the new constitution, saying that in the current situation a more restrained approach to this by making amendments to the Basic Law currently in effect would be better.

Kozyrev at 'Tough' Parliamentary Committee Hearings

PM2701163993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report under the "In the Government" rubric: "Minister 'Carpeted'"]

[Text] Yesterday Andrey Kozyrev once again testified in the Supreme Soviet. This time at a closed session of the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations.

To judge from the streamlined agenda—urgent problems of Russia's foreign policy—and the scant information released to journalists the previous day, the discussion was tough. It is possible to understand the deputies: Some of them have already repeatedly predicted the end of Andrey Kozyrev's political career, but he—just look at him!—has once again ended up in the government (the fourth one in succession). And yet the "complaints" were crushing: His inability to strengthen Russia as a world superpower, capitulation to pressure from Washington, betrayal of old friends—Iraq and Serbia—and, finally, disregard for the interests of compatriots in nearby foreign parts and agreement to Ukrainian jurisdiction over the Crimea.

But allow me to ask: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs really determine the country's foreign policy priorities? Is this not the prerogative of the president, the Congress of People's Deputies, and the Supreme Soviet? Is it not parliamentary committees—for international affairs, interrepublic relations, and defense and security—that elaborate the foundations of this policy? Diplomats are merely the executors of these laws and presidential decisions.

Of course, in tactics the initiative belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is defined in the presidential edict as the coordinator of all actions outside Russia. Of state departments, public organizations, and entrepreneurial structures. Unfortunately, this sphere has not yet been mastered by the proprietors of the "tower block" on Smolensk Square. But this is a problem of growth, and, to all appearances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is beginning to cope with it.

In the deputies' opinion, the "incompetence" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership is confirmed by the fact that the text of the Russian-Hungarian treaty contains a sentence condemning totalitarianism and the Soviet Army's interference in the 1956 events in Hungary. The

treaty was not ratified by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and the president had to blame this on "technical" reasons.

Kozyrev 26 Jan Remarks to Supreme Soviet Panel

PM2701212993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 93 First Edition p 2

["Foreign Policy" report by Aleksey Vorobyev: "Foreign Ministry Prepared for Dialogue"]

[Text] On 26 January Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressed closed hearings on Russian foreign policy issues at the parliamentary Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. The Supreme Soviet had waited a long time for this discussion. Some opposition leaders had intended to turn it into a monologue of accusations against the Russian Foreign Ministry and its chief, but the hearings were surprisingly peaceful and businesslike.

Andrey Kozyrev pinpointed some key questions. He described the Commonwealth Charter, approved at the Minsk meeting, as a solid legal framework for the development of the CIS. It was stressed that in certain respects this charter corresponds to a level of integration comparable with that envisaged by the EC countries' Maastricht Treaty. But it took them more than 30 years to get to that treaty; we have only been working a year.

Concerning the status of the Russian-speaking population in nearby foreign countries, the minister announced that it had been decided to appoint a special Foreign Ministry representative to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking population and expressed the wish that he work in close contact with the Supreme Soviet.

A new aspect of the foreign policy department's position was made public when the discussion turned to matters of national security. Andrey Kozyrev noted that Russia does not intend to get involved in any "disarmament race." The traditional disarmament agenda is already to a large extent exhausted and in our country we have practically reached the limit in terms of cuts dictated by our real defense needs.

The Foreign Ministry chief devoted much attention to cooperation with the Russian Supreme Soviet, noting that there is currently an observable trend toward closer and more fruitful collaboration. For example, for a number of reasons Foreign Ministry experts advised the Russian president against traveling to certain Near East countries for the moment.

In these conditions the Russian Supreme Soviet chairman's visit to the region was an important element in our political dialogue with these countries at a high level.

Dialogue between the Foreign Ministry and the body of deputies is not only very desirable, but possible—that was Andrey Kozyrev's conclusion. He noted also that the prospects for the future shaping of Russian foreign policy are good.

Presidium Accepts Draft Program on 'Radiation Catastrophes'

OW2701173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [27 January] at the session of the Russian government presidium Vasiliy Voznyak, the chairman of the Russian State Committee on social protection of citizens and rehabilitation of territories which suffered from the Chernobyl and other radiation catastrophes (Goskomchernobyl), reported that at present, nuclear energy wastes with radiation equal to 1 Bn [billion] curie are being stored at the Mayak industrial association (Chelyabinsk region). In Voznyak's words, the amount of radiation there can be compared with 20 Chernobyls.

Voznyak presented a draft of the State Program on radiation decontamination of the Ural region and measures to render assistance to the population which suffered for the period until 1995. This draft was approved by the members of Cabinet of Ministers' presidium.

The head of Goscomchernobyl called several disasters and leakage of radioactive materials at the end of the forties and fifties as the main sources of radiation in the Ural region. In particular, the explosion of a tank containing radioactive materials at Mayak in 1957 threw 20 Mn [million] curies into the atmosphere. A radioactive cloud travelled above the territories of the Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, and Tyumen regions. On the whole about 450,000 people were irradiated at that period of time.

Ensuring security is one of the urgent measures needed to improve the radiation situation in the Ural region, because as before, Mayak will produce plutonium and re-process wastes from atomic power stations. Besides, a complex of ecological, medical, and social- economic measures have been developed, including a plan to rehabilitate contaminated territories. The government is supposed to allocate 11.5 Bn rubles for these purposes, including 4.5 Bn rubles to pay compensation to the people affected. Voznyak underlined that the program was calculated in 1991 prices.

Soviet of Nationalities Passes Foreign Investment Draft Law

LD2701184693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—The Soviet of Nationalities, one of the chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet, passed the draft law "On Concession Treaties and Accords on Division of Output Concluded With Foreign Investors" in its first reading today. The document regulates legal, economic, and organizational conditions for foreign investment in the Russian Federation in the form of concessions and accords on division of output. We will recall that the other chamber, the Soviet of the Republic, passed the draft law in its first reading a few days ago.

Bill on Precious Metals, Stones Approved

OW2701222493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [27 January], the Russian Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities adopted a bill "On state regulation of the extraction, production, and exploitation of precious metals and precious stones and on state control over operations with the mentioned valuables" in its first reading. Simultaneously the document was approved by the Council of the Republic.

During discussion of the bill at the Council of Nationalities several deputies favored restricting the state monopoly on operations with precious metals and stones only in the sphere of foreign trade. According to them, banks should also have the right to procure precious metals from enterprises which develop and extract them.

Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliament's budget commission, opposed this idea because, as he said, this will cause "a flow of gold to more efficient commercial structures." Pochinok also supported deputies who proposed to strengthen state control over this branch and to adopt the bill only after the federal program to develop natural resources is approved.

Regional Affairs

Court Declares Moscow Council Election Decision Illegal

OW2701154393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [27 January] the Moscow city court declared the decision of the 12th session of the Moscow city council on holding elections for head of the Moscow city administration February 28 illegal and demanded that the decision be recalled. The court's decision may be appealed in the Supreme Court within a ten day period.

Speaking at a hearing, head of the legal department of the Moscow Mayor's office Sergey Dontsov called the city council's attempt to hold elections "deliberate political adventurism." The city council, which is not in favor with the current mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, is trying to replace him.

Ingush Presidential Elections Rescheduled

PM2801104593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 First Edition p 2

[Yevgeniy Bobrin report: "There Were No Elections. But There Will Be a Choice"]

[Text] Elections for the head of the Ingush Republic, which the Congress of Peoples of Ingushetia had scheduled just over a week ago to take place last Sunday, 24 January, have been put off by five weeks and will be held 28 February, on the day fixed by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium. This was agreed last Saturday, less than a day before the scheduled date, by another extraordinary congress of this republic's peoples which was held that day in Nazran and repealed its earlier decision.

The significance of the consensus that was reached must not be underestimated: There was a considerable risk that confrontation would be perfectly possible between the Russian supreme authorities and the state structures of the young republic that have only just been established.

The nonrecognition of the results of the elections in January seemed inevitable—both because they would have been held without a decree from the Russian parliament presidium creating a legal basis for them and because the Russian president's edict on the state of emergency, which is also valid on the territory of the Ingush Republic, excludes the very possibility of elections. However, having agreed to the new date for the elections, the recent congress at Nazran has at least shown that the method and experience of their close neighbors in their confrontation with the Russian center are not popular with the national movements that exist here.

But how lasting could this current mutual understanding turn out to be? It has long been no secret that many leaders in Ingushetia believe that the dispute with North Ossetia over the territorial issue, which has certainly not lost its urgency even after the introduction of the state of emergency, can only be resolved within Russia and with its assistance—moreover, in a way that they consider desirable—and the readiness to reach consensus which has been demonstrated in Nazran may be dictated by the hope of reciprocal understanding, which in turn will inevitably create difficulties for all-Russian state structures in their future relations with the head of the Ingush Republic, whoever this turns out to be on 28 February.

Incidentally, according to reports from a number of informed agencies, Ruslan Aushev has been named the sole candidate.

But it is still too early to confirm that this name, which is undoubtedly popular among the Ingush, will be the only one to appear on the election ballot sheets.

The issue of future candidates was also examined 16 January by the People's Council [sovet] of Ingushetia meeting in Ordzhonikidzevskaya—this was convened back in October 1991 at the Second Congress of the Ingush People. Here it was decided to propose the inclusion on the election ballot sheet of Bembulat Bogatyrev, erstwhile USSR people's deputy, Magomed Sultygov, head of the present administration, and General Musa Tsechoyev, who is serving in the Russian Army, in addition to Ruslan Aushev.

But the outcome of the voting will not simply be determined by the sympathies of the voters. It is unlikely that the tragic confrontation on the right bank of the Terek River will be completely halted within a month. But even some movement toward a settlement could undoubtedly exert an influence on minds, mood, and the choice of either a moderate or an extremely radical candidate.

It seems that this was realkzed by the organizers of a two-day meeting between North Ossetian and Ingush delegations which has just finished in Kislovodsk. The meeting took place behind closed doors as far as the press was concerned, but it can be said that even the absence of a summary document does not constitute grounds for pessimism: Extremely difficult problems are not resolved in a day or two even if there is an immense desire to be successful peacemakers, but an initial analysis of the preliminary results of the Kislovodsk talks, it seems, is nonetheless necessary.

A week ago, after the end of the "roundtable" in Pyatigorsk, the conciliation committee working there, composed of representatives of national, social, and political organizations from North Ossetia and Ingushetia, was able to make fairly substantial progress in coordinating their proposals "On Certain Measures To Settle the Conflict."

The issue of authoritative mediation by sociopolitical and national movements was also discussed thoroughly. We already know one of the mediators—"Adyge-Khasz" (the public movement of the Kabard people), the other should be named by 1 February.

The elections in Ingushetia are not far off. But these are not just elections of personalities, they are a pointer to the future not only for this young republic but in many ways for the entire region as well. And responsibility for the way ahead does not only lie with those who will come to the polling stations.

North Ossetia, Ingushetia Stable; Avalanche Reported

LD2801112793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 28 TASS—The situation was relatively stable in North Ossetia and Ingushetia over the past 24 hours, ITAR-TASS learned at the provisional administration in Vladikavkaz this Thursday [28 January].

Russian peace keepers continue to implement measures to maintain the state of emergency regime in the area. On the other hand, military sources report that there were many violations of law and order in the zone.

Investigative groups of the Russian Interior Ministry seized 12 firearms, five hand grenades, ammunition and explosives from local residents. Patrols searched over 3,500 motor vehicles and detained 50.

According to reports from the Alagirskiy district, an avalanche occured near the village of Zaramag on January 27 as a result of snow-storms in the Caucasus and a subsequent thaw. A preliminary report says that a convoy of trucks and cars was buried under the snow.

Another avalanche blocked the northern entrance to the 4-kilometer Rokskiy tunnel on the same day. A preliminary dispatch says that the avalanche swept away three Russian soldiers.

A government commission led by North Ossetian Premier Sergey Khetagurov went to the place of the tragedy on Thursday. The rescuers and the necessary machinery were also dispatched to that place.

Official Says Buryatia Plans No Secession From Russia

LD2801091693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude January 28 TASS—Although Buryatia is a sovereign republic within Russia it plans no secession from the federation, according to Oleg Khyshiktuyev, representative of the Constitutional Commission of the Buryatian Parliament.

He told a press conference on Thursday [28 January] that the draft of a new constitution of Buryatia has never envisaged any separatist moves.

He also denied press reports that the draft contradicts the Russian Constitution.

The work on the draft is going strictly in the framework of the Russian federative treaty, he added.

Arkhangelsk Soviet Raises Oblast's Status

PM2801113593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by journalist Ivan Bentsa: "Arkhangelsk Oblast Soviet Has Taken Steps Toward Creating Pomorskaya Republic"]

[Text] Arkhangelsk—A session of the Arkhangelsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies has without prior notice raised the oblast's status and expanded the local authorities' rights virtually up to republic level.

A draft charter for the oblast was submitted for discussion by the session. The deputies adopted the charter at the first reading. They considered that some of its provisions should be put into operation immediately.

In the opinion of the Arkhangelsk deputies, the Federation Treaty does not ensure the equality of the Federation's subjects. The republics have received broad political and economic rights but the oblasts have remained without their fair share. That infringes on the interests of their population and holds back reforms. As V. Shiryayev, deputy chairman of the oblast soviet, said at the session, the local authorities have now been virtually removed from the administration of territories—everything is decided for them in the center and there should be no illusions that the federal authorities will voluntarily alter the situation in favor of the regions. The genie of sovereignization has already been let out of the bottle so they must persistently seek their share of benefits from the center.

The session voted almost unanimously for the draft decision proposed by V. Shiryayev, which proclaimed the oblast a state structure virtually equal to a republic. This

decision considerably restricts on the territory of Arkhangelsk Oblast the powers of the Supreme Soviet, president, and government, which henceforth can form organs of state management here only with the consent of the local authorities. The oblast soviet has given itself the right to suspend the activity of organs of state power formed by higher ranking structures when they contradict the interests of the local population. Henceforth the agreement of the oblast soviet and the head of the oblast administration will also be required for the election of the oblast court and arbitration court and the appointment and dismissal of leaders of federal organs of state administration.

The deputies justified their decision by the need to protect the interests of the oblast's entire population, but I think that it will meet with the warmest support from the supporters of the creation of Pomorskaya Republic. This public movement, albeit not very popular, could now become mass-based thanks to the deputies' unexpected support.

Defense Plant Diversifying Into Civilian Communications

PM2701141793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1620 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By unidentified correspondent; from the "Business in Russia" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Video shows women in factory.] Until quite recently the shops of the "Elektropribor" Plant in Vladimir produced virtually nothing but military output. The plant clearly considered that its link with the Army was the only one it needed. Of course, it goes without saying that a strategic bomber like the one we see here cannot manage without a radio set, but you will agree that such things are needed in civilian life as well. When embarking on the conversion program, the plant decided to reorganize its production so that, first, it would not lose its skilled staff—incidentally, even the training of specialists in the diagnostics sections takes more than a year—and second, so that it could use all the experience that had been built up and keep the cost of retooling down to the minimum. It must be said that both these aims have been achieved. Today military orders form just 30 percent of its order book. Its other output includes this telephone radio attenuator and this radio relay set. These devices can be used to connect virtually all the countryside to the telephone network, by installing one antenna like this at the automatic telephone exchange in the city, the other in any village. Four subscribers can be connected in parallel to the radio attenuator. With the radio relay system, 300 families can be connected to the telephone system right away. This enterprise also has its sights set on the problems faced by the big cities. Among other products it is also offering radio telephones which can be used both in official vehicles and in private cars. Admittedly, things here are not as rosy as it may seem at first glance.

[Vladimir Yushin, chief engineer at the "Elektropribor" Plant] For us to make the best of our potential and to update our technology we need resources. We need preferential credits.

[Correspondent] On hearing that, people are probably already exclaiming in horror: That dreaded word credit again! It should not be forgotten that there are different types of credit, too. Especially if they are taken for specific programs. After all, even the number of our private farmers will increase if there is a telephone in every home [video shows remote farm] like this. [Video shows extensive tour of "Elektropribor" plant, workers, products, interspersed with views of strategic bomber and crew, farm buildings in snow-covered landscape.]

Siberian Foreign Economic Council Formed

PM2801105593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksey Tarasov: "Siberian Territories Elaborate Unified Principles for Foreign Economic Activity"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—A coordination council for foreign economic activity has been created under the "Siberian agreement" association. V. Novikov, chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet of People's Deputies, who has become its head, described the formation of the concept of the Siberian regions' foreign economic activity.

Will the Siberian territories' export potential have its former raw material orientation or will it start to increase through the sale of finished output? Where do the Siberians intend to direct their efforts—toward the countries of the Asian and Pacific region or toward the West? Where is the sphere for the application of their interests? So far Siberia's krays and oblasts lack a unified approach toward these questions. At the first session of the coordination council for foreign policy activity the discussion was of an exclusively preliminary nature. But some avenues of the council's work have already been determined.

TENDER POLICY. The holding of auctions and competitions in which Western investors will take part is something unprecedented for Siberians. Agreement has been reached with the Far East association on the exchange of documents for the preparation of common normative acts to avoid each territory inventing its own "bicycle."

THE RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY MISSION ON SIBERIAN TERRITORIES. There have been reports in the press that this is a manifestation of separatism—there are claims that Russia is beginning to establish diplomatic relations with the krays and oblasts. It is a case of something absolutely different—the opening of Foreign Ministry services designed to accelerate the working out of documents, including the issue of exit visas and passports for foreign travel.

SIBERIAN REGION'S MISSION ABROAD. Many enterprises are now going out onto the foreign market and like blind kittens are signing agreements deliberately designed to lose them money. It is essential to have abroad representatives of the Siberian region with a good knowledge of the market of another country or group of countries. But can Krasnoyarsk Kray, for instance, cover the entire globe with a network of its missions? That would be an expensive pleasure. The Novosibirsk enterprises opened an information center in Germany and the maintenance of just one

employee costs 1 million rubles a month. Understandably, the territories must coordinate their efforts.

BORDER CROSSINGS. It has been suggested that a conference be held on the problem of Chinese-Russian crossings. To this end all interested departments and representatives of the Chinese authorities and our authorities should be brought together in Khabarovsk Kray and problems should be discussed together.

A number of naval bases and civilian ports are now being respecialized, including ports in the Far East, and talks are under way about Krasnoyarsk Kray's participation in the construction of specialized terminals.

At the first session of the coordination council for foreign economic activity there was also a discussion of a broad range of questions concerning the leakage of unpatented manufacturing processes from Russia, the training of economists and international law experts, and the forthcoming presentation of the "Siberian agreement" in the Foreign Ministry.

The coordination council elaborated a draft president's edict connected with the foreign economic activity of republics, krays, and oblasts. It suggests a drastic increase in territorial quotas, tax exemption for output which is of very great importance to the life of the population, and permission to use 10 percent of the precious metals which the territories have the right to dispose of as security to galvanize investment activity.

International Affairs

Kuchma on Economy, Nuclear Arms Dismantlement Costs

LD2701190993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By Ukrinform correspondents Valentin Vernodubenko and Anatoliy Grigoryev for TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 27 TASS—The Ukrainian government is currently facing the task of stopping production slump, Ukrainian prime minister told a news conference on Wednesday [27 January], devoted to the first 100 days of the work of the new cabinet of ministers of Ukraine.

Having characterised the state of the country's economy as very grave, he said that the government will submit guidelines for national economic policy in 1993 for consideration by parliament in the next few days.

"There can be no return to the old administrative-command system. However it is necessary to revive the structure of management of state property. All state-owned enterprises must work in the interests of Ukraine," the prime minister emphasised. "Nobody is waiting for us in the West and this is a distant prospect, but we should seek to attain it. I believe in my own forces, in my people. We must first of all cooperate closely with the countries of the former Soviet Union and not only with the CIS. Ukraine did not leave the CIS. Life calls for restoring the disrupted economic links on the basis of mutual benefit and equality."

The success of the government programme to tackle the crisis is stability in society which depends on every one and on restoration of manageability of what we have, drawing on the American experience of the great depression of the 1930s, Kuchma noted. Foreign investments must be attracted in every possible way into the country's economy.

Replying to questions, the head of Ukrainian government said that the 175 million dollars allocated by the U.S. Administration to Ukraine to promote the process of dismantling nuclear armaments on its territory are obviously not enough. The prime minister said that dismantling strategic missiles will require as much as is needed to install them. At the same time he did not rule out the possibility of Ukraine selling non-nuclear weapons to other countries.

Further Kuchma Comment

OW2701210193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government's main task is to restore the structures of state property administration, announced Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma at a press conference Wednesday [27 January] in Kiev. "State enterprises should work in the interests of Ukraine, and not in the interests of private labor collectives," he said. In searching for a way to bring Ukraine out of its crisis, the prime minister believes the country could use the United States' experience from the years of the Great Depression in the 1930's.

Kuchma said the republic's main foreign policy problem was "economic integration within the former USSR."

In response to a question from an Interfax correspondent as to whether the government would, in the future, allow the sale or long term lease of industrial enterprises and land to foreign investors, Kuchma said that not only would Ukraine allow this, but that it is planning to do just that. "We are prepared to sell or approve long term leases, say, of 99 years, of land for the construction of hotels and for other specific programs," said the prime minister.

Kuchma confirmed the agreement between Ukraine and Russia on transferring all accounts of Ukrainian enterprises from Russia to Ukraine.

He also said that in 1993 Ukraine would introduce a national currency - the hryvnya. In order to make the hryvnya convertible, Ukraine will need a stabilization fund of $2 Bn [billion].

The prime minister said that next Tuesday he will appear at the plenary session of the Supreme Soviet to present the government's plan of action.

He said that as of yet there is no one in Ukraine who holds the weight of political power which would have supported reforms and on which the government could have leaned.

Discussing the issue of nuclear disarmament, Kuchma stressed, "We have to decide with Russia the problem of [weapons] destruction." He said that the $175 Mn [million] proposed by the United States as compensation for the destruction of strategic missiles, is clearly insufficient. "If the president of the U.S. had asked his specialists they would have told him about this," said the Ukrainian prime minister.

Ministry Concerned for Ukrainian Contingent in Croatia

OW2701210993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry reports that the resurgence of fighting in Croatia has caused serious concern from Ukraine, since it threatens the process of the peaceful settlement of the conflict on the territory of all of the former Yugoslavia. A statement distributed Wednesday [27 January] in Kiev by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service notes that the military contingent which the state sent to participate in the U.N. peacekeeping effort is in danger.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry notes that, according to the U.N. General Assembly's resolutions, the safety of the personnel in U.N. peacekeeping forces must be ensured by the state to which they belong. The statement announces Ukraine's insistence that the U.N. Security Council resolutions be fulfilled unconditionally in Yugoslavia and that

all warring factions abstain from action which might threaten the lives and safety of U.N. forces personnel.

INTERFAX learned that early in the morning of Thursday, January 28, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyin Morozov will fly to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, where the Ukrainian battalion of U.N. peacekeeping forces is located.

UN Volunteers in Yugoslavia To Be Replaced

OW2701181593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing devoted to the results of an inspection tour to Yugoslavia, Vladimir Popovskiy, a representative of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, reported that as a part of the peace-keeping forces, the Ukrainian blue helmets are successfully fulfilling the command's tasks and enjoy authority among the population.

According to Popovskiy, Bosnia's government has sent a letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in which he highly appreciates the actions of a Ukrainian battalion in supporting neutral relations with the warring parties assisting in the humanitarian mission.

Popovskiy reported that Ukrainian servicemen are entrusted with the most serious tasks, including convoys, exchanging prisoners of war and ensuring security during communications repairs.

The representative of the Foreign Ministry reported that on their return from Bosnia all Ukrainian servicemen will be rewarded special medals.

On Tuesday [26 January] another battalion, 150 in number, headed for Bosnia from Nikolayev to replace the Ukrainian "blue helmets."

New Black Sea Fleet Commander Arrives in Sevastopol

LD2701201893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Sevastopol January 27 TASS—Vice-Admiral Eduard Baltin, new commander-in-chief of the Black Sea Fleet who was appointed at this post on January 15 this year as a result of an agreement between presidents of Russia and Ukraine in Moscow, arrived from Kiev to Sevastopol on Wednesday [27 January] night. According to well-informed sources, Eduard Baltin had a meeting in Kiev with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine and Colonel-General Konstyantyn Morozov, Ukrainian defense minister. Discussed at the meeting were the problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the way of the settlement of contradictions concerning the division of the Fleet. As is known, immediately after his appointment, Eduard Baltin announced his intention not to allow confrontation in the Fleet with the problems of which he will have to get acquainted yet.

Incidentally, the appointment of commander-in-chief and the approval of the flag are so far the only fulfilled clauses of the Yalta agreement of August 3, 1992 on the Black Sea Fleet.

Government Negotiating for More Russian Petroleum

OW2701181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government has formed a group of the country's plenipotentiary representatives for cooperation with Russia to develop the Western Siberian oil and gas complex. Ukrainian radio announced that the Chairman of the Ukrainian Oil and Gas State Committee, Mikhail Kovalko, headed the group.

The group will start by holding negotiations with the Russian government, local authorities and enterprises in the Tyumen region on Ukraine's participation in the exploitation of oil and gas sites in Western Siberia.

Kovalko has launched preparations for a future meeting between Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin; the upcoming meeting was planned at the last meeting in Moscow on January 14th. The meeting will focus on supplying Tyumen oil to Ukraine.

Under the preliminary agreement, Ukraine will have the entire volume of oil from the oil-wells restored by its own means and personnel.

Speaking on republican television yesterday, Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe pointed out that at this point in time, the problem of supplying Ukraine's thermoelectric power stations with coal, gas and fuel oil has been resolved. However, difficulties with oil remained. Every month the republic needs about 3,5 Mn tons of oil.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on Sevastopol, Black Sea Fleet

AU2701131993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Jan 93 p 3

["Interview With Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk by Correspondents of the Sevastopol Television and Radio Broadcasting Association" recorded by UKRINFORM in Sevastopol; date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Leonid Makarovych, first of all, thank you for agreeing to appear before the residents of Sevastopol. You know that the situation here is not simple. Our city is quite special: On the one hand, it is young and on the other hand—old. Every fourth person here is a pensioner. The recent "shock therapy" affected these people most painfully. Today, in Sevastopol, the consumer basket constitutes 22,000 karbovantsi [K] per single elderly person. Your representative receives K30,000. In fact, the town has found itself outside the boundaries of normal life. At the last news conference, you said that it is necessary to

do everything in order to avoid "war" in Sevastopol. The situation now is very tense. What way out do you see? What needs to be done to remedy the situation?

[Kravchuk] If I had full knowledge of what to do today, I would have told the government, my representatives in the provinces, and economic leaders about it. If I could, I would have done it myself.

I know the city of Sevastopol. I know that, if I am not mistaken, only 45,000 persons here work. All the rest are servicemen, pensioners, pupils, and students. How is one to find a solution to this question for such a city? In my opinion, there are two ways: Either the state provides for such a city from its budget, proceeding from an average standard or, if the state cannot do this, it is necessary to enable the people to earn money. I have just met with the deputy presidential representative. The government has been commissioned to consider the question of granting Sevastopol the status of a free economic zone. Regarding the resolution of social problems, I will commission the government to analyze them, and, since the city is in republican jurisdiction, to provide for financing its needs as a separate item in the budget.

The city will also receive assistance in the form of foodstuffs within the framework of existing norms and agreements. Supplies will arrive from Kherson, Nikolayev, Odessa, and other neighboring oblasts. However, not all problems can be resolved at once. This concerns, first and foremost, territorial disputes, as was recently stated at the rally in Sevastopol. Of course, every citizen of any state has the right to choose a place for his residence. He goes where life is better. We understand this. It is normal. I think that this applies equally to all Ukraine's citizens of any nationality. For example, almost 200,000 Jews have left Ukraine. However, in the given case, it is a matter of Sevastopol being transferred to a different state. This is how the question is formulated. Here, the residents of Sevastopol must stop. Because this question cannot be resolved. The state's territorial integrity or the status of its certain territory do not constitute the question for the Crimea to decide. Here, an all-Ukrainian referendum is necessary. It is only in this way that the question can be resolved: To give up the territory or not. This cannot be done proceeding from the desire of a population that wants to change its place of residence together with the land. We must proceed from the realities of those laws that were adopted by the Supreme Council. The point is that the Crimea, including Sevastopol, is a part of our state. If tension is built up around this problem, this may entail serious consequences. This is all the more so since organizers of political rallies, interviews, and so on resort to forbidden methods, falsification, and deception of people. The president is accused of things that he never did. I was and am in favor of maintaining the CIS status as it is at present. I repeatedly appealed to my opponents and asked them: Find a place in any of my speeches where I advocated Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS. There is nothing of the kind. At the same time, people ascribe to me calls to pull Ukraine out of the CIS. Certain forces are using this to deceive the population. This is being done at the level of political blackmail. Second. Is it really possible to imagine that a miracle has suddenly happened and the peoples have decided to create the USSR anew? How can one expect that the situation will become better tomorrow? Believe me, it will not. That is because all those states that currently exist on the territory of the former USSR have already implemented such political and economic reforms as do not in any way match those assumptions or those nostalgic thoughts according to which something similar to the USSR may be created again.

I understand these people, they want everything to be connected. However, one should not expect that after this everything will proceed as before. Responsibility for the disintegration of the Union is ascribed to Kravchuk. However, was it under Kravchuk that the Union began to disintegrate? It began to disintegrate as soon as the CPSU headed by Gorbachev proclaimed democracy. Because that Union was kept together by force. We know this well. Both the older and the younger generation. It was kept together by the relentless political and party discipline. However, as soon as the strength of the party dwindled, the foundation began to shake. Already by 1990, when Ukraine proclaimed its independence, there was no foundation of the Union any longer. In Belovezhskaya Pushcha, it was not the question of destroying the Union that was resolved. We thought of how to put this process, as Mikhail Sergeyevich put it, into a civilized course, lest people should perish under the fragments of the system and lest confrontations or wars should break out. Taking into consideration the mentality and the characteristics of the seventy years of life in the Soviet Union, we have saved the people from a possible catastrophe.

Some people say that, before, we lived well, in luxury, and that it just occurred to somebody to destroy the Soviet Union. This is not true. It is a lie. We lived badly, very badly. We simply maintained our existence on credits and on selling our raw materials resources. Everything became unusable. However, all of this did not take place over one or two years of Ukrainian independence. Look at the ships of the Black Sea Fleet. All of them are old and not really fit for any serious strategic purposes. Or take our villages. There are regions, even in the Crimean Republic, where there is not a single school, polyclinic, or kindergarten in the village. All of this in Ukraine where the soil is so rich! Well, has this happened over one year of Ukrainian independence, as some people want to ascribe to us? I can quote dozens and thousands of examples to prove that everything already hung by a thread. Donbass is impoverished to the utmost. To put the question seriously, could any state take upon itself the responsibility for Donbass and finance it? It already requires billions [monetary unit not specified] of expenditure.

Incidentally, I have an interesting document. Residents of Sevastopol are looking for proof that Sevastopol has been financed from the Russian budget all the time. Consequently, they say, Sevastopol has been a Russian city. You have a certain Kruglov. He sent an inquiry to the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation requesting to confirm that the city of Sevastopol has been financed from the

Russian budget. He received a reply from the chief of administration in charge of systematization in legislation. Here is what he writes: In reference to your inquiry, I inform you that the decree adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on 29 October 1948 regarding the city of Sevastopol is no longer valid in accordance with the decree adopted by the RSFSR Council of Ministers on 25 April 1968 that declared certain decisions by the RSFSR Government as no longer valid. I also have other documents, and I simply took the last of them. I understand the whole complexity of the situation. I want to say that there are problems in other regions as well. Far from everything that we had in mind could be fully resolved by us. However, in this situation, there is no need to resort to falsification or deception in order to prove that one is right or wrong. There is no need to compete in being rude or uncivilized. There is no need to cause confrontation among the people. Everybody must know that, in conformity with international norms, the question of where the Crimea must be and where Sevastopol must be may only be resolved on a constitutional basis and with mutual consent. Russia will not resolve this question without Ukraine, no matter what decrees or decisions are adopted there. Here, international laws must be adhered to. Even in the Helsinki Final Act, it is stressed that such questions must be resolved through negotiations. I think that those who urge people to come to rallies know about this. However, they want to push people into confrontation and violence.

We are ready to consider everything. Incidentally, the press carried the communique on the meeting, at the highest level, between the state delegations of Ukraine and Russia. It also dealt with questions of dual citizenship. The problems of Sevastopol will be studied. Gradually, step-by-step, despite the whole complexity of the situation, the executive powers of Ukraine and Russia strive to resolve these questions within the framework of territorial integrity. I would like to appeal to wise people of Sevastopol: it is necessary to analyze facts and to analyze the driving forces and, by all means, arrive at a right decision. However, I want to ask you one thing: Do not yield to provocations. That is the main thing. Because experience shows that, as soon as clashes start, it is not presidents who rule, but those who hold weapons, and weapons tend to fire.

[Reporter] Leonid Makarovych, you have already touched upon the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. Now, you have finished your answer by stating that those who possess weapons may decide matters for presidents. Unfortunately, such things have already happened in history. There are many weapons in Sevastopol. At present, these weapons have found themselves in the possession of two masters: the Ukrainian Fleet and the Joint Black Sea Fleet. It is true that the situation in the city is not quite standard, even anomalous. Two sets of headquarters, two commandant's offices, and so on. Everybody is asking: Will there be a clear-cut solution? The Ukrainian side believes that the Russian side is not fulfilling the Yalta accords. The Russian side is of the opinion that it is the Ukrainian side that is not fulfilling them. This causes agitation in the city. Finally, a Russian person in Sevastopol cannot imagine that this city, which used to be the main base of the Russian Fleet, will no longer be home to the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and that the city may, all of a sudden, cease to be the main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. Can you imagine such a thing?

[Kravchuk] I think that in resolving this question one must proceed from international experience. There is Ukraine's legislation and there is Russia's legislation. We cannot resolve questions as the executive power would. Neither I nor the president of Russia. There exists executive power. In accordance with our legislation, everything that there is on Ukrainian territory belongs to Ukraine. This is also the case with the Russian legislation: Everything that is situated on Russian land belongs to Russia. This is stated in the adopted CIS documents. If we proceed from a situation in which the Russian side says: Admit that Sevastopol is a Russian city and then all questions will be resolved—I cannot agree to that. This is not in my jurisdiction. Territorial questions must be considered by the Supreme Council. It appears that we must change our legislation? However, the Supreme Council will not agree to that: We cannot proceed from nostalgia: Sevastopol is a city of Russian glory. I can understand the human aspect here, but it is impossible to change the entire legislation for the sake of this understanding. I sometimes hear officials and the military in Russia put it like this: We built here and we did this and that, and so it must be ours. However, if we turn to who, where, and what built, sowed, or grew, then everything must be revised. Why should we limit ourselves to the one-hundred years history? Let us think in terms of thousands of years. There is no limitation here. Some people would want to start counting from the year 1920 and others—from 1940. What is it that I want to prove? In all decisions, recognition of the status quo is obligatory (this is prompted by international practice and by the experience of many states). As soon as one state refuses to recognize the rights of another state, there will be no solution to problems.

Yes, there must be the Russian Fleet. Where there will be bases and, headquarters—all of this must be resolved. However, if people sit down at the negotiating table and begin by stating that this is a Russian city, then why should we take part in the talks? What is the point of our participation? I ask you: On what basis is this done? I may be told that it was a wrong decision. There were many wrong decisions. In that case the entire complex of documents must be reconsidered. All decisions. Why should the question of Sevastopol alone be reconsidered? How about today? Are all the decisions that are being adopted today correct? Perhaps, our grand children and great grandchildren will come and say that we also adopted wrong decisions and that they must be reconsidered. So, every generation will revise decisions and laws? Questions must be resolved within the framework of the existing situation and recognition of the state's right to independence and sovereignty. In such a case all questions will be resolved.

I believe that the Russian president's words to the effect that we must remain friends and that we must live together

on this land and resolve questions jointly are not mere words. We must not look for a place of residence where life is cheaper. I was told that some people said at the rally that foodstuffs are cheaper in Russia. Is this an argument in favor of raising the question of transfer to Russia's patronage? In Turkmenistan, for example, gas is free. One can find dozens of states where meat, gas, or gasoline are cheaper. Should we then abandon this land, leave it to the mercy of fate, and go where life is cheaper and better? This make me sad. A person who thinks in this way does not love either Ukraine or Russia. This is where the danger lies. One's land must be looked after and peace must be taken care of. When things are bad in the family, what must be done? Work, unite, and support one another.

[Reporter] Leonid Makarovych, there are questions that concern all of us. Is it possible to resolve the problem of the two languages and the problem of dual citizenship?

[Kravchuk] Very much so. I was and am in favor of having two equal languages in the Crimea and in Sevastopol—Russian and Ukrainian. However, the Crimean Tatars will also raise a similar question. In resolving all this, this circumstance will have to be taken into account. Furthermore. When we speak about two languages, the protection of one language—Russian—is implied and I would like to have two languages protected. The Ukrainian language, too. There are no Ukrainian schools or kindergartens here. There are no Ukrainian-language newspapers and no Ukrainian is spoken on television. In other words, I see a political decision provided common sense is adhered to. The same applies to dual citizenship; both the Russian and our legislation provide for dual citizenship. However, its principles have not been fully elaborated. There must be an agreement between the two states.

[Reporter] Leonid Makarovych, at the recent rally, once could hear that the question of the presidential representative be resolved. People only recognize the city council because they elected it. It was stated at the rally that it is a general people's organ and that the presidential representative must simply resign.

[Kravchuk] I can also formulate the question like this: The president has been elected by the entire nation and not only by Sevastopol residents. Almost 20 million citizens of Ukraine voted for the president. It is the overwhelming majority of the people who have the right to vote. The president elected by the people appointed his representative in accordance with the law adopted by the Supreme Council. That is why this is not in the jurisdiction of the street or of the city council. Those people who always look for something in order to aggravate the situation are taking advantage of this question. They are not looking for ways to establish interaction between the city council and the administration. The administration would like to maintain contact with the city council. I have not in any way exceeded my constitutional powers. The presidential representative in Sevastopol has been appointed in accordance with the law adopted by the Supreme Council. As long as this law functions, I will not enter into any discussions. The Sevastopol residents must know about this. The city council must not yield to political pressure contrary to common sense.

I believe in the common sense of Sevastopol residents. I see with what difficulty many problems are resolved in the Supreme Council. However, it is not confrontation that is needed, but compromise and understanding on the part of both sides. I hope that Sevastopol residents will find strength to resolve all problems. We will promote this. It is necessary to stop and, instead of looking for the guilty party, try and look for ways of resolving problems jointly. We must try to survive without losing face and without losing integrity and conscience. I want to wish all Sevastopol residents all the best.

Defense Minister Pays One-Day Visit to Crimea

LD2701235693 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] As was reported by the Defense Ministry press service, Ukraine Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov has paid a one-day working visit to Simferopol.

He had a meeting with Mykola Bahrov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of the Crimea. In particular, issues in connection with reforming military units deployed on the territory of the Crimea were discussed.

A meeting with officers at the headquarters of the 32d Army Corps also took place.

National Guard To Take on Public Order Duties

LD2801102593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0944 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—From now on the Ukrainian National Guard [NGU], which numbers around 20,000 people, will be involved together with the internal affairs bodies in maintaining public order in population centers and during mass public, political, sporting, or other events. The NGU is also being tasked with such functions as stopping mass disturbances aimed at changing the constitutional system by force or disorganizing the work of the bodies of state power and government or of enterprises, institutions, and organizations. This decision has been adopted in accordance with the changes and addendums introduced by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to the law "On the National Guard of Ukraine" and the statute "On the obligations and rights of the personnel of the National Guard of Ukraine."

Cabinet Approves Economic Action Plan

LD2701220093 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved the government's action plan for the implementation and development of "the foundations of national economic

policy" for 1993. The plan is based on an analysis of the reasons why the Ukrainian economy is in its present state. Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukrainian minister of the economy, included among these reasons the lack of control of the state sector of the economy, the collapse of economic links with Ukraine's main partners and the countries of the ruble zone, the lack of an effective system of state executive power and of a system of accounting which does not ensure a normal process of serving economic organizations, and the loss of income supervision.

The creation of an effective system for administration of the state sector of the economy on the basis of self-sufficiency is being planned by the cabinet. Measures for denationalization of the economy will be taken along with measures to remove state enterprises from the immediate control of ministries and departments of industry on a consistent basis. To do this enterprises with capital stock of between 20 million and 1.5 billion karbovanets will be transformed into open joint-stock companies over the course of the first six months of this year.

Parliament Supports Price Controls on Staple Foods

OW2701222193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [27 January] the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution "on the social and economic situation in Ukraine and measures for stabilizing the situation, socially protecting the population, and improving the work of the Supreme Soviet in the deteriorating situation."

The resolution recommends that when drawing up the 1993 budget the Cabinet of Ministers examine, in conjunction with permanent parliamentary commissions, several proposals from parliament on the social welfare of the population. The following proposals were made: - price regulations during the stabilization period on milk, kefir, boiled sausage, sugar, salt, cereals and vegetable oil; consideration of the possibility of rationing certain products; - lifting value added taxes from children's goods, medicine, medical equipment and agricultural products.

Belarus

Borders With Baltics Too Close To Stop Smuggling

LD2801102393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Belarus will close its borders with the Baltic countries. The ANI news agency reports that this was stated by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. The decision by the Belarusian authorities to close the borders is connected with the fact that the energy crisis in the Baltics has led to the smuggling and re-export of petroleum from Belarus.

Shushkevich on Nuclear-Free Status, Need for Army

LD2701173593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Belarus is trying to acquire the status of a neutral nuclear-free state, Stanislav Shushkevich stated at a parliament session under way in Minsk. He stressed that, to do this, the republic is trying to speed up the withdrawal of strategic nuclear weapons which are Russia's property. At the same time the chairman of the Supreme Soviet particularly noted that Belarus needs a 70-75,000-strong army to ensure the concept of Belarus's armed neutrality.

Shushkevich To Participate in Economic Forum

OW2701195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 28, the Belarusian official delegation headed by chairman of the republic's Supreme Council Stanislav Shushkevich is leaving for Davos, Switzerland, the host town of the International Economic Forum.

A spokesman for the Belarusian parliament told Interfax that on his trip to Switzerland Stanislav Shushkevich will be accompanied by First Vice Premier Mikhail Myasnikovich and Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko.

The preliminary program of the Belarus delegation in Davos and Geneva envisages Mr Shushkevich's meetings with the presidents of the Switzerland, Bulgaria, as well as with the prime ministers of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Poland. In addition, the Belarusian leader will meet with heads of various international organizations and ministers of some of the European countries.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Russian delegation headed by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and the Ukrainian delegation headed by President Leonid Kravchuk are also coming to Davos to attend the International Economic Forum. The Russian and Ukrainian delegations are also planning to use this opportunity for meeting with their foreign counterparts.

Cooperation Planned With Moldovan Trade Union

LD2701204593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus has left for Chisinau to sign an agreement on cooperation with the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Moldova. The trade union activists are convinced that having joined efforts in the protection of rights and interests of workers of their countries they will be helping successfully in consolidation of their economic relations, carrying out contractual discipline concerning deliveries of raw materials, components, and finished products. Cooperation in organizing medical treatment and recreation of workers and children who suffered from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident features as a separate clause.

Documents Being Prepared for Cooperation With Japan

LD2701205393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2038 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Tatyana Khryapina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 27 TASS—"Belarus is prepared for cooperation with Japanese partners," Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko said on Wednesday [27 January] at a meeting with Japanese charge d'affairs in Belarus, Akira Tateyama.

Kravchenko believes that working out a package of documents between the two countries, primarily, a memorandum on bilateral relations, a consular convention, an agreement on mutual protection of investments and an agreement on opening air routes between Minsk and Tokyo could be an important step in this direction.

The Belarusian foreign minister believes that one of the most important directions of this cooperation is to step up joint efforts to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Kravchenko mentioned with gratitude that Japan had allocated through the World Health Organisation 20 million U.S. dollars to Belarus, Russia and Ukraine for the purpose.

During the meeting the Japanese diplomat said that Japan intends to make maximum efforts to develop friendly ties with Belarus. He delivered a message from the Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to the Belarusian foreign minister.

Supreme Soviet Approves Budget for 1993

WS2701133493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The Republic's budget for 1993 was discussed today at the Belarusian Supreme Soviet session. After a short discussion, the budget was approved in its entirety. Also today, the fulfillment of the 1991 budget was confirmed. The people's deputies made a decision to rename the commission led by (Mikhail Sremnyov) to the Standing Commission for National Policy and CIS Issues. The personnel issue was also among the topics discussed at the

morning session. Supreme Soviet chairman, Stanislav Shushkevich, nominated (Petro Nichko) as his deputy, but he did not receive a sufficient number of votes during the ballot. Ivan Lyakh was appointed head of the Belarusian State Committee for Anti-Monopoly Policies. The Architecture and Construction Committee will now be headed by Hryhor Tishkevich, while (Olha Darhil) was confirmed as the minister of social protection. At this time, the discussion of the draft law on amendments and additions to the Belarusian Law on Enterprises is under way.

Parliament Approves Amendments to Law on Deputies' Status

LD2701183593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1813 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 27 TASS—State officials would be charged from one to three minimal wages if they fail to provide complete or timely information to an inquiry made by a deputy of the Belarusian parliament. An amendment to the law on the status of people's deputies was made by the Belarusian parliament on Wednesday [27 January].

Under the law, the parliament gives deputies much more time to collect the necessary information or make a necessary inquiry into a problem. A term of 10 days has been established for the purpose instead of 3 days, as previously.

However, some deputies were not happy about the amendment, since they believe that the efficiency of a people's deputy inquiry would be rendered null and void because of a long period of time allowed for making a response to the inquiry.

Moldova

Parliamentary Vice Chairman on 'Political Crisis'

OW2701143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] If the Moldovan Parliament does not find a way out of the crisis, it will have to disband itself and announce early elections, Vice-Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament Victor Puscasu told INTERFAX.

He believes that the political crisis in the supreme legislative body was caused by the fact that the parliamentary majority's proposal on holding a referendum on Moldova's independence is being blocked by the minority which favors Moldova's unification with Romania.

He also said that there is a split in the parliament's presidium, as well, although in the presidium pro-Romanian ideas prevail. Given this, the presidium cannot work out a reasonable compromise and propose it to parliament, said Puscasu.

Parliamentary Minority Prevents Unity

LD2701165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 27 TASS—Following a statement by the Moldovan president, Mircea Snegur, about the need to strengthen the independence of the republic, deputies of the Moldovan Parliament were almost divided into supporters and opposers of unification with Romania.

The parliamentary majority proposed asking the opinion and conducting a referendum in the republic. This position is understandable, because the plebiscite results are virtually a fargone conclusion. Public opinion poll has shown the overwhelming showed the majority categorically against the reunion.

But the referendum was opposed by the parliamentary minority: Deputies who support the Chrisitian Democrat People's Front. They were supported by the presidium and its speaker, Alexandru Mosanu, who stated "the referendum will start a quarrel between the Dniester region supporters and Gagauz seperatists, the national supporters of the People's Front". Supporters of the People's Front could use the absence of many deputies, especially those from the Dniester and Gagauz regions to block this decision with only one vote missing.

Seeing in it a falsification, the majority of deputies walked out of the parliament as a sign of protest and expressed no-confidence in its leaders. After several days of consultations, noisy debates with insults and counter-insults, the parties could not come to a compromise. Today the chairman of the parliament Alexandru Mosanu announced that discussions on this question are being postponed until next week.

'Provocations' Reported in Gagauz Region

AU2701173893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1705 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 27/1/1993—Events in the zone of Vulcanesti District of the self-styled Gagauz Republic start following a scenario similar or close to those of Tiraspol and Tighina. It is about provocations, the killing of police, the occupation of the headquarters of official authorities of the Republic of Moldova by guardists, the creation of anti-constitutional structures, all while, as many deputies opine, the central authorities in Chisinau are surprisingly still.

The sharing of the Vulcanesti District between the Republic of Moldova and the "Gagauz Republic" can only worsen the already tense situation and generate conflicts with unforeseeable conflicts. A deputy from the Vulcanesti District, wondered at Radio Chisinau which was in fact the position of the Ministry of the Interior, of the Ministry of National Security. The natural question arises: What do the presidential and government structures do to guarantee a quiet life, by virtue of the constitution to the inhabitants of the "indivisible, independent and sovereign" Republic of Moldova.

Accords Between Transdniester, Gagauzia, Abkhazia 'Invalid'

OW2701180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy chairman of the Moldovan parliament, Victor Puscasu, declared to an Interfax correspondent that the agreements signed on Monday [25 January] by the so called transdniesterian and Gagauz republics with Abkhazia are legally invalid. In his opinion, these self-proclaimed states are not subjects of international law and are a part of Moldova and Georgia.

Puscasu believes that these agreements cannot be recognized by legal governments of any country. "The threat to conclude such agreements is quite obvious," said he. "This is activity by reactionary circles in Georgia and Moldova capable of unleashing armed conflicts both on Georgian and Moldovan territories and on Russian territory."

Puscasu assessed the intentions of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic to render military aid to Abkhazia as "an attempt to aggravate tension and nothing more."

President Snegur To Leave for France 28 Jan

OW2701154793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President, Mircea Snegur, will leave on January 28 for a three-day official visit to Paris. He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister, Nicolae Tiu, and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Andrey Cheptine, as well as Parliamentary Commission on Science and Education Chairman, Petru Soltan.

A Friday [29 January] meeting has been planned between Snegur, French President Francois Mitterand and Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas, at which they will sign an agreement on friendly relations and cooperation between Moldova and France. Also planned, is a meeting between Snegur and UNESCO General Secretary, Federico Mayor.

Agenda Detailed

LD2801111893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By MOLDOVAPRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau January 28 TASS—President Mircea Snegur's first official visit to France began today.

During the trip, effected on the invitation of the head of the French state, Snegur will meet President Francois Mitterrand, Senate Chairman Rene Monory, Minister for Francophone countries and external cultural relations Catherine Tasca, and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac.

The sides will sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries during the visit, as well as a document on Moldova's accession to the "Paris charter for a new Europe".

Agrarian Deputies Reportedly Want To Dissolve Parliament

OW2701213393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputies of the most numerous agrarian faction in the Moldovan parliament are demanding that the republic's Supreme Council be dissolved. They said on Wednesday [27 January] that the parliamentary crisis is obstructing their productive functioning since the parliamentary minority, which is represented by the Christian-Democratic Popular Front faction, is capable of blocking any decisions.

Agrarian deputies and their supporters are insisting on holding a referendum in the republic, as President Mircea Snegur proposes, to confirm its independence.

The parliament head, Alexandru Mosanu, is siding with the Popular Front faction against the referendum, reasoning it will be impossible to stage it when "most of Moldovan territory is occupied by Russia's 14th Army."

The Moldovan parliament failed to reach any decision in regard to President Snegur's initiative about the referendum and announced that it will be adjourned until February 2.

Parliament Dissolution Threatened Over Sovereignty Issue

OW2701214393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1923 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliament's deputy speaker Victor Puscasu told Interfax that he did not rule out the possibility of parliament holding early elections (i.e. on dissolution). He said "if no way out of the dead end could be found, this could happen very soon."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The crisis in parliament arose after the largest deputies' fraction (landowners) together with a group of independent deputies and the Russian speaking "Soglasie" ("Accord") fraction last Wednesday [27 January] left the debating chamber in protest against actions by the leaders of parliament. The landowning deputies were of the opinion that Alexandru Mosanu, parliament's speaker, and the presidium's leadership together with the National Front fraction distorted the results of voting on a draft resolution.

The resolution was drawn up in response to a statement by President Snegur. It proposed a referendum on the two main articles of the new constitution which concern Moldova's independence. The first article states that Moldova is an independent, sovereign and indivisible republic. The second states that national sovereignty belongs to the

people, and that the ownership of this sovereignty can be determined by means of referendum and through representative bodies.

Victor Puscasu said that several tendencies were now clearly evident in parliament: one was the leaning of some deputies towards Moscow and the resurrection of the Soviet Union; another was unification with Romania; the third and strongest was the strengthening of genuine independence for Moldova and her sovereignty. The last group of deputies enjoyed the most backing from the nation. However, although this group also held the majority in parliament, it was unable to secure the passing of appropriate resolutions. The deputy speaker was thouroughly convinced that the political crisis could be overcome only if these three groupings moved their positions closer together and demonstrated their commitment to independence. However, he stressed, this was not taking place.

Mosanu said that those deputies who favoured unification with Romania were appealing for economic issues to be solved as a matter of priority. Their actions, he said, were populist in character, since this was not possible without first solving the political problems. Priority, he said, should be given to the constitution, to passing a law governing elections, the resolution of the dispute over the legal status of Transdniester, and completing the reforms of local administrative bodies.

Puscasu concluded by proposing a nationwide debate on the main articles of the draft constitution.

Separatist Accuses CIS Presidents of USSR Collapse

OW2701223893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2009 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics "will revive and historic justice will triumph," declared Sazhi Umalatova, the head of the former USSR people's deputies delegation at the parliament's session of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic. According to Umalatova, the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and other CIS countries "have destroyed the USSR against the will of the people and they should be hanged."

Speaking about the situation in Transdniestria, Umalatova blamed Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in this region, for complicity to the Moldovan authorities. In Umalatova's words, the general "wants to withdraw the army from transdniesteria and accepted a conspiracy with Chisinau "to destroy the Transdniestrian republic."

Umalatova welcomed the initiative put forward by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of liberal-democratic party, who sent 10 volunteers last Sunday to help Saddam Husayn to repel "the American aggression" in Iraq.

Intelligentsia Congress Opts for Unification With Romania

PM2801105993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Lyudmila Feliksova report: "In Search of Suitable... People"]

[Text] Chisinau—The People's Front of Moldova is out of luck. The Front exists, but the people are not with it, insofar as there is no mass support for its central idea—unification with Romania. To top it all, President Mircea Snegur has called for a referendum on the issue of the republic's total independence from everybody and anybody.

The Front responded with a show brashly entitled "Congress of the Intelligentsia of Moldova." And although the intellectuals were selected on the grounds of political likemindedness, a split within the Front's ranks between "radicals" and "moderates" was obvious even at the congress itself.

In the speakers' opinion, to hold a referendum in the republic would be to attempt to get an answer to the primitive, but insidious, question of with whom to move forward—the Russians or the Romanians? For the congress participants, the answer is clear—with the latter. Unification is inevitable, it is merely a matter of when and how. They are also unanimous in the belief that membership of the CIS in any form is impossible for Moldova. But the emergence of a Bessarabian metropolitan see under the aegis of the Romanian patriarchate, legitimizing the fact of a split in the church in Moldova, won warm approval.

Those seated in the hall arrived at the unanimous view that there is no need to reelect the parliament. This is understandable: Many of the speakers at the congress would hate to part with their deputy's mandate and wages, which would be inevitable in the event of new elections.

There is just one question which remains unclear—what to do about the slow-witted people who are very lethargic in their reaction to pro-Romanian slogans. But nevertheless, the task of "going to the people" will be undertaken before 1 March in the form of regional assemblies of the intelligentsia.

Social Democratic Party Cochairman O. Nantoy said the following about the congress' work in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Moldova is not faced with three options for development—the CIS, independence, or unification with Romania—but with two: either the democratic way, or totalitarianism and chaos."

Foreign Aid Anticipated To Alleviate Economic Crisis

LD2801095993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 28 TASS—Moldova expects to alleviate its economic difficulties by means of foreign aid this year. According to information released by the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, more than 170 joint enterprises, set up with the help of foreign capital totaling

more than 55 million roubles, have already been registered in the republic. New foreign credits are expected to come also from China, the United States, Turkey and Canada.

However, in expert opinion, the state of the republic's economy is so grave that credits may not be able to bolster it up. The industrial slump reached 28.1 per cent last year as compared to 1991. The volume of processed farm products, the main branch of the economy, has dropped to 81 per cent. Analysts believe that the present situation is due to the disintegration of the erstwhile deeply integrated economic space and the disruption of economic ties with the republics of the former USSR.

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev Urges Closer Economic Cooperation

WS2701133593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has proposed that a convention on new economic cooperation be signed by all the countries of the former Soviet Union as well as those from Eastern Europe. As part of implementation of this idea, Nursultan Nazarbayev also suggested that a conference of economics ministers from the former Soviet republics be held in Kazakhstan as soon as possible. In addition, he suggested that the agriculture ministers of these countries should urgently meet. In the opinion of the Kazakh leader, those meetings could result in the creation of an industrialists' union or a party that would be active throughout the European continent and would promote horizontal relations and mend the broken economic ties among the CIS countries.

Parliament Grants President Power To Appoint Ministers

OW2701181393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's parliament Wednesday [27 January] voted overwhelmingly to accept the article of the constitution which empowers the president to appoint: the prime minister; the vice-premiers; foreign, defence, finance and interior ministers; the chairman of the national security committee; and the head of the diplomatic corps.

Parliamentarians on Wednesday continue their article by article discussion of the new constitution.

Parliament Official Discusses Armed Forces Organization

PM2801094193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Bulat Dzhanasayev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for National Security and Defense, by Anatoliy Ladin; place and date not given: "Guarantees to the Man in Uniform"]

[Text] [Ladin] Bulat Bakhitzhanovich, a Supreme Soviet deputy told me unofficially that it looks as though the military have achieved the formalization of their own parliamentary committee. And he stressed that it is a strong lobby. Is this true?

[Dzhanasayev] As we know, Kazakhstan was practically the last state in the CIS to announce the formation of its own Armed Forces—it did so after the same step was taken by Russia. So that, hitherto, purely military problems had occupied an insignificant place in parliament. Life itself demanded changes. When creating the parliamentary Committee for National Security and Defense, and subsequently ratifying its composition, the deputies at the eighth session said: Roll up your sleeves, comrades, and present drafts of today's most important laws for discussion at the next session, the ninth. So there is no need to pushing anything through, or to impose anything; that, as we know, is what lobbyists do.

[Ladin] The ninth session has begun. Has it proved possible to resolve all these tasks? And another question. Who is in the Supreme Soviet Committee for National Security and Defense? Only deputies who are servicemen?

[Dzhanasayev] Of course not. There are 18 of us. In the committee, deputies who were previously not directly involved in military problems are working side by side with experienced specialists from the army, the border and internal troops, and the National Security Committee. These deputies include an academic, a physician, a worker in a housing construction combine, a teacher, and leaders of enterprises.

Incidentally, two important draft laws were adopted at the present Supreme Soviet session—on defense and on the status and social protection of servicemen and members of their families.

[Ladin] Why this precise combination?

[Dzhanasayev] To date, the request by the republic president has been that the formation of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan should be carried out in the shortest timeframe. And so a law was needed which would establish the principles of the organization of the republic's defense, the powers of the organs of authority and administration in resolving questions of defense, a system for its economic backup, and the obligations of enterprises, institutions, organizations, public associations, officials, and citizens in strengthening the state's defense capability. In this way, with the adoption of this law, the role, place, and tasks of the Armed Forces in the overall system of ensuring the security of Kazakhstan were determined.

Clearly it is not only weapons and combat equipment, though they may be state-of-the-art and highly efficient, that form the basis of reliable defense. It is the people who will ensure the fulfillment of defense tasks that form the basis. Article 29 of the draft law we are talking about lays down that citizens participating in ensuring the defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan enjoy the socioeconomic, political, and personal rights and freedoms envisaged by legislation for citizens of the republic, with exceptions and restrictions dictated by the nature of defense obligations. And at the same time, it is said here that the state is giving the servicemen guarantees of appropriate conditions for the performance of their military duty in defending sovereign Kazakhstan.

Naturally, in the draft law on the status and social protection of servicemen and members of their families, we talked not only about obligations, but also about the responsibility of those who are entering military service. In other words, we think that service in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan should become prestigious, and not grow pale in comparison with even medium-scale commercial activity.

[Ladin] And what else is your parliamentary committee involved in?

[Dzhanasayev] There is another duty of some considerable importance: To exercise control over the execution of laws in the localities concerning the authority of our committee. This work has recently been carried out in the organs of the National Security Committee. At our session we heard a report by Bulat Bayekenov, chairman of the National Security Committee, on the results of this examination.

To sum up, the committee strives to occupy a worthy place among the Supreme Soviet structures.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Proposes Rigid Measures To Fight Corruption

OW2701195993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1923 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev maintains that smuggling, corruption, bribe taking and economic crimes are sweeping the republic. Talking in Bishkek at the closed-door conference of the officers of the Kyrgyz National Security Committee (NSC), he characterized as "threatening" the scope of crime in the republic and called on the law enforcement agencies to mobilize all of their resources for combatting every criminal offense.

The NSC chairman, Anarbek Bakayev, pointed to the facts of corruption in the administrations of some of the state agencies. The President, in his turn, insisted on "rigid measures, up to arrest" to be taken with respect to the officials responsible for such offenses. "There is no more time for us to retreat, for we have come to the edge of the abyss," Mr Akayev said to the NSC officers.

The press service of the head of state informed Interfax that this conference was part of the president's program of his meetings with the republic's law enforcement agencies for the purpose of defining their role in the taking dynamic actions for leading Kyrgyzstan out of the economic crisis.

In the words of the President's press secretary, Kabai Karabekov, President Akayev is now attaching primary importance to insuring law and order in the republic and safety of Kyrgyz citizens.

During the meetings, the President seeks to establish whether national law enforcement agencies have sufficient strength and resources to secure stability and maintain control over the situation in the republic. He also wants to outline any additional measures which need to be taken to keep the situation under control.

At the end of January, the head of state is planning to stage a general conference to define the measures for reinforcing the republic's law enforcement agencies in order that they would be capable of combat crime and corruption with adequate efficiency.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ends Visit to South Africa

LD2701190793 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0000 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The official visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Karabayev of Kyrgyzstan to the Republic of South Africa has ended. During his four days' stay in that country, he held talks with his South African colleague, Roelof Botha. He had meetings with heads of the energy concern (Statel) and the Chamber of Mines and representatives of a number of companies. Both sides came to the conclusion on the outcome of these meetings that it was advisable to study at expert level the possibility of cooperation in the area of the mining of minerals, non-traditional power engineering, and also agriculture, pharmaceuticals and [word indistinct]. Kyrgyzstan expressed an interest in using South African technology in creating joint enterprises in those sectors. The question of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries will also be examined. Here Kyrgyzstan proposed its capital Bishkek as the place for permanent operation of the RSA ambassador accredited to all the other Central Asia republics and Kazakhstan. A message was conveyed to President Frederik de Klerk of South Africa from the head of the Kyrgyz state, Askar Akayev, inviting him to pay an official visit. A similar offer was made by Karabayev to Botha.

Tajikistan

Newly Appointed Defense Minister Interviewed

PM2701165593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report: "Minister of Defense of Tajikistan Appointed"]

[Text] As has already been reported, Colonel Aleksandr Shishlyannikov has been appointed to the post of minister of defense of the Republic of Tajikistan. He was born in Tashkent in 1950. He graduated from the tank command high school there, and served in the Central and Western Groups of Forces and in the Turkestan Military District. He graduated from the Armored Troops Military Academy. He arrived from Uzbekistan, where he was chief of staff of a corps, to fill the post of minister of defense of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In a conversation with your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Aleksandr Vladimirovich noted:

"I see my basic task today as forming a Ministry of Defense apparatus as quickly as possible and immediately starting the organizational development of the republic's armed forces. To my mind, this work could be carried out in three phases. As a result, a small, mobile, highly professional army must be formed, whose aim will be to protect the sovereignty of Tajikistan and ensure its reliable defense capability."

Concerning the future of the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division, Shishlyannikov stated that it will not be "privatized" by Tajikistan, and the expediency of its

continued presence on the republic's territory will be examined in the near future at consultations with the Russian minister of defense.

At a meeting with the command of the group of Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan, Aleksandr Shishlyannikov again stressed that units of the republic's regular Armed Forces that are being formed will be used first and foremost to step up cover of the sectors allocated to the Pyandzhskiy and Moskovskiy Border Detachments in cooperation with the Russian border guard troops.

Muslim Leader Warns Clergymen To Stay Out of Politics

OW2701213093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Muslim clergy in Central Asia has always been against participation in political disputes, chairman of the regional religious department Mufti Mukhammad Sodik Mukhammad Yusuf told Interfax today. He pointed out that he "repeatedly warned Tajik spiritual leaders and even made them sign forms that they should focus on religious matters and keep away from political struggle".

At present, the Tajik authorities launched judicial proceedings against the Tajik Muslim leader, Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, and the leaders of the Muslim Party for anti-constitutional activities and a coup attempt.

"We do not justify his actions and confirm that our clergymen do not intend to interfere in the state's activities any more, especially as religion is separated from the state in all Central Asian republics," the clergyman pointed out.

Mukhammad Sodik also said that he himself had "nothing in common with the Islam Revival Party" and that this party would answer for its actions in future.

The clergyman declined to comment on the recent reports by the mass media that Muslim communities intended to come out of the jurisdiction of the regional religious department, referring to the lack of official documents request.

'Fierce' Fighting Reported in Ramit Gorge

LD2801095193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 28 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to reports from Tajikistan, government forces are continuing to disarm and neutralize armed opposition groupings which have scattered in the vast Ramit Gorge, several dozen kilometers from Dushanbe. Opposition fighters are putting up fierce resistance and the groupings, despite their relatively few numbers, have modern firearms at their disposal including antitank and sniper rifles. There have been casualties on both sides but there are no reports of numbers.

CIS Joint Military Command To Help Establish Army

LD2801125993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe January 28 TASS—A team of generals and officers from the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces is currently visiting here. Its purpose is to help Tajikistan set up its own national Army.

The KHOVAR news service was told today by member of the team Colonel Semyon Bagdasarov, official of the public information centre of the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, that the team began its visit here by meeting officers of the Tajik Defence Ministry.

Dushanbe Persecutions Commission Gives News Conference

LD2801113893 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Members of the commission checking the authenticity of reports of persecution of people from the Pamirs in Dushanbe and other parts of the republic have held a news conference in Khorog. The commission was formed by decision of the eighth session of the Gorno Badakhshan Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies.

A detailed report on the work done by the Commission was dellvered to journalists by the commission's head, (Shabosov), deputy chairman of the Gorno Badakhshan Oblast Executive Committee. Reporting on meetings with Imamali Rakhmonov and other leaders of the republic, he stressed in particular that the present legitimate government is making maximum efforts to ensure that peace and tranquillity are restored in Tajikistan in the very near future. Opportunities (?will be sought) for providing food and fuel aid to the population of Gorno Badakhshan and care will be taken to improve the economic situation of the entire people of the republic, including those (?in towns) in the Pamirs.

(Shabosov) answered many questions from journalists connected with the work of this commission.

Energy Crisis Threatened in Near Future

LD2801095593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0953 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 28 TASS—Tajikistan is facing the prospect of an energy crisis in the near future at a time when the construction of Central Asia's largest Rogun hydropower station has been practically frozen for several months now. Abdukarim Rakhimov, chief engineer of the national Nurafzo Hydropower-Station Building Company, said in an interview published in today's PEOPLE'S GAZETTE.

The lack of government funds to finance the construction of the hydropower station is one of the main causes of that, Rakhimov said. Not less than 1,000 million roubles are needed now for urgent building operations alone. However, a contract for a 500-million credit, concluded with Pakistan at the beginning of last year, has not been ratified

by the government of Tajikistan up to now owing to armed confrontation in the republic.

The problem of personnel is no less acute, Rakhimov believes. His opinion is that a way out of such a state of things is in stopping the outflow of hydropower station builders from among members of the Russian-speaking population and in the adoption of legislative acts by the leadership of the Tajikistan Parliament for the social and legal protection of members of ethnic minorities.

Turkmenistan

President Niyazov Promises Aid for Tajikistan

OW2701223593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1925 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik parliament leader, Imamali Rakhmanov, has concluded talks with President Saparmurad Niyazov, in Ashgabat, by signing a bilateral trade and economic agreement for 1993. Protocols on diplomatic relations between the two countries and cooperation between their foreign ministries were also signed.

Speaking afterwards, Rakhmanov said he was pleased with the outcome of his talks with President Niyazov. He said Turkmenian exports and humanitarian aid could help resolve his country's economic problems and move towards internal stability. The Tajik leader also said his government should both crack down on the country's small, though well-armed, opposition and seal off the Afghan border.

For his part, the Turkmenian president spoke of deciding to provide tents and essentials as part of his country's humanitarian aid to Tajikistan.

However, Tajik Prime Minister Abdulmalik Abdullodzhonov, described the results of negotiation with Turkmenistan as negligent, though adding that he was an optimist and prepared to settle down even for that. He did not elaborate on the amount of Turkmenian aid apart from saying it was smaller than expected. The Prime Minister explained the setback by Turkmenistan's own hardships rather than any other reason.

Uzbekistan

Government Assures U.S. Ambassador of Aid for Tajikistan

OW2701212993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2009 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a meeting on Wednesday [27 January] with U.S. Ambassador in Tajikistan S. Escudero, Uzbek President Karimov assured him that Uzbekistan will provide assistance to neighboring Tajikistan. In pursuing the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, Tashkent is willing to respond to an appeal for help from Tajikistan. In addition to his ambassadorial office, the U.S. diplomat is presiding over the U.S. State Department commission for humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan.

President Karimov said that even at the time when the situation in Tajikistan was especially dangerous, Uzbekistan was still dispatching railway trains and highway convoys loaded with thousands of tons of food supplies, fuel, warm clothes and medicines to that republic.

The president told the U.S. ambassador that 19 national cultural centers in Uzbekistan have set up a special public humanitarian foundation for assisting the Tajik people. At present, the foundation has 10 Mn [million] rubles in its budget.

European Bank Offers Funds for Uzbek Gold Industry

LD2801115493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Experts from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, headed by Vice President Ronald Freeman, have ended their trip to Uzbekistan. They stated their readiness to invest $70 million of a required $100 million to build a joint enterprise to extract gold from the republic's gold-mining dumps.

Amnesty Declaration Frees Human Rights Activist

OW2801130493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Uzbek Supreme Council's Legal Collegium has declared Abdumannov Pulatov, the chairman of the Uzbek Society for the Defense of Human Rights, guilty of insulting the honor and fitness of the republic's president. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, but the trial fell within the bounds of President Islam Karimov's declaration of amnesty for the first anniversary of Uzbek independence. Pulatov was released from custody directly from the courtroom on Thursday [28 January].

Immediately after he was freed, Pulatov had a conversation with journalists in which he thanked the press and the world's human rights organizations, which had supported him during the trial. He said he intends to continue his studies at Moscow University, where he is working on his doctorate.

Pulatov was arrested by Uzbek security police on 8 December in Bishkek, where he was taking part in an international conference entitled "Human Rights and the Fate of Nations." He and two other Uzbek representatives were transported from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbek territory and taken into custody there.

The court, during its inquiry, decided to assign criminal responsibility in the matter to two journalists from the newspaper Independent Daily, which published the material which besmirched the president's honor.

Armenia

Electricity, Gas Supplies Suspended

LD2701141593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ARMEN PRESS correspondent Boris Kufaryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan January 27 TASS—The weather has become somewhat warmer in the capital of Armenia but the fact elicited only a slight sigh of relief: Electricity and gas supplies are cut off as before and the heating of homes remains a big headache. Trams and trolleybuses cannot run and underground trains run at greater intervals. The republic's industry minister has issued an order to stop the plants and factories subordinate to his ministry.

All bakeries continued to work, electricity supplies are ensured to 15 out of 44 clinics, and some of the telephone switch boards continue to operate. A permanent headquarters is in control of all the life-supporting services.

One of the high priority tasks is to speed up work to restore the gas pipeline exploded in the Marneuli district of Georgia. Armenian builders are already working there jointly with Georgian specialists.

Armenia lives on hopes that the political weather will get warmer after cold winter and there will be a breakthrough in the solution of the Karabakh problem, as well as the entire gamut of problems plaguing the Transcaucasian region.

Ter-Petrosyan Searches for Ways To Get Fuel

LD2701214393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A most difficult economic situation is being preserved in Armenia. It has become warmer, but there is no light or gas.

[Nazaryan] It has been five days since the explosion on the pipeline in Marneulskiy Rayon in Georgia and not a single cubic meter of gas is being delivered to Armenia. The republic continues to live in extreme conditions close to catastrophic. Today Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held an emergency conference with the leaders of the most vitally important services of Yerevan. Issues relating to supplying power to bakeries and hospitals, the problems of supplying water to the Yerevan residents, and the sanitary and epidemic situation in the city were discussed.

[Begin Ter-Petrosyan recording] Georgian constructors have already started work. Work is under way. We hope that in the next few days the functioning of the pipeline will be restored. But, at the same time, we are looking for alternatives ways to supply liquid fuel and electricity to the republic. In this issue the Russian leaders—in particular, I had telephone conversations with both Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and half an hour ago I spoke to Boris Nikolayevich, who contacted me from aboard the aircraft on his way to India—are meeting us halfway. Generally speaking, all possibilities are being investigated. The possibility of relaying electricity via Turkey is not being excluded. On this account I had a telephone conversation with Turkish Prime Minister Demirel. I hope that we will extricate ourselves from this situation. [end recording]

Crisis Prompts Plans To Restart Nuclear Power Station

PM2701135193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

[V. Aloyan report: "People in Yerevan Resort to the Ax"]

[Text] A few days ago a local newspaper put on its front page a photograph of the "Mother Armenia" monument towering over Yerevan. The monument's hands are holding not a sword but a woodcutter's ax, and it is surrounded not by thick tree crowns but by stumps. Alas, this bitter irony completely corresponds to the facts: The mass clearing not only of surrounding woods but also of parks and boulevards in Yerevan itself has begun.

According to "Ergorelektroset" data, only 10-15 percent of the electricity required by a person in normal conditions is now available for each Yerevan inhabitant. There is a minimum of 12 hours of staggered cuts every 24 hours. But even this does not save the situation: Many of the city's rayons have been without power for several days because of faulty transformers and cables. Every day, unable to withstand overloads, an average of four or five transformer installations burn out, each of which costs 1.2 million rubles, and the amount of burned out cable runs into hundreds of kilometers.

In general few people thought that things would turn out like this four years ago, when it was decided to close the Armenian AES [Nuclear Electric Power Station]. First, the decision was made after Chernobyl, immediately following the crippling Spitak earthquake. Second, the Soviet Union shared a unified electricity network at that time... And third, additional capacities were actively installed at Razdan GRES [State Regional Electric Power Station], which should have made up for the shortage that had arisen. But now, in total blockade conditions, GRES's and TETS's [heat and electric power stations] are practically idle—every day each of them needs an entire trainload of fuel oil. The entire workload rested on the Sevan cascade of hydroelectric power stations, as a result of which the Sevan River's level started to fall catastrophically.

It was in these conditions that it was decided to restart the Armenian AES. The government insists on this and the president has made statements about it. IAE[illegible]. [International Atomic Energy Agency] specialists have been frequent visitors to Yerevan since last year. Representatives of such a respectable organization as "Franceatom" are already on their second visit. They have not yet submitted their conclusion but I was told by Eduard Arzumanyan, Armenian deputy minister of energy and fuel, that, in the

opinion of Armenian and Russian specialists, it can be started up. True, several billion rubles will be needed for this.

But all this is just talk so far. It is not the president or the prime minister who will have the final say, but parliament. The point is that the Armenian parliament once adopted a decision that, should an AES be reopened or a new one be constructed, this issue should be decided only by a nationwide referendum. It now has the power to either let its decision stand or rescind it, giving the government and specialists the freedom to act.

President Presses for Reopening

NC2801142593 Yerevan SNARK in English 0948 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 28 (SNARK)—Presidential Press-Secretary Ruben Shugaryan informed SNARK's reporter of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's intention to press, at parliament, for the power station reopening within half of year, in contrary with the experts' suggestion to reopen the station within two years. "We may not let the people's vital capacity depend on foreign policy factors, the nuclear station reopening is not a political but a vital question," Shugaryan emphasized.

Prime Minister: Nuclear Systems Pose Great Danger

LD2701221193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2202 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 28 TASS—"Systems of the Armenian nuclear power station left without energy supply are practically out of control and pose a great potential nuclear and radiation danger," Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan said in a message forwarded to the governments of the CIS, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran on Wednesday.

Arutyunyan pointed out that there is uranium fuel and radioactive waste at the nuclear power station which need special control, ventilation and cooling, which is impossible in the absence of energy supply.

"We are making maximum efforts to prevent a possible accident which might lead to a catastrophe in the region," the message says.

It is pointed out in the message that because of heavy frosts various groups of the Armenian population "are putting pressure on the Armenian government with the aim of resuming the operation of the nuclear power station at all costs."

After a recent explosion in Marneuli region of Georgia electric power stations remain the only source of electric energy supply to Armenia but their capacity does not allow to ensure the minimal sufficient operation of Armenian vitally important facilities, the message said.

'Disastrous Situation' in Wake of Gas Pipeline Explosion

PM2801151393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Karen Topchyan report: "On Brink of Disaster"]

[Text] Yerevan—A disastrous situation has developed in Armenia. This is connected with the recent blowing up in Georgia of the only functioning gas pipeline, along which the blue fuel used to reach our country. Five of the pipeline's supports were destroyed. Vladimir Manoyan, leader of the press center of the government of the Republic of Armenia, told me that rebuilding work will last at least two weeks.

All 400 industrial enterprises in Armenia are idle, the working of the Yerevan subway and of surface passenger transport has essentially been paralyzed, there is an acute bread shortage, and there is no heating in apartments, where the temperature has approached zero. Electricity is supplied to consumers for an average of four hours a day. Small iron stoves are the only source of heat.

In connection with the sharp deterioration in the situation President Levon Ter-Petrosyan spoke of the need to introduce a state of emergency in the country at a recent emergency session of the presidiums of the Supreme Soviet and the government. But his statement did not meet with support from the majority of those present. In the present situation the Armenian leadership has decided to use the meager stocks of fuel for the needs of the subway, the airport, medical establishments, and bakeries.

...Meanwhile, cases of deaths from the cold have already been recorded in certain parts of the country.

Measures Taken To Guard Pipeline

NC2801141893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0739 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 26 (SNARK)—Armenia will take measures for reliable guard of the gas pipe, which provides Armenia with gas, in the territory in Armenia as well as in the territory in Georgia, Eduard Simonyan, deputy head advisor for national security of Armenian president, said to SNARK's reporter. According to his words, the negotiation on the above theme to the Georgia's leadership are under way. Besides, SNARK has information the both parties are to agree on providing security to the Armenian rebuilding workers, who left for the accident place, Marneulskiy Rayon, Georgia.

Arutyunyan Visits Pipeline

LD2801101193 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In Armenia the dramatic gas supply situation continues. The republic's Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan is on a brief visit to Georgia. He is having talks with the leadership of the neighboring republic and will visit Georgia's Marneulskiy Rayon where repair work continues on the gas pipeline damaged by an explosion last week.

According to a report by the Gazprom concern, one-third of the damaged section has now been repaired.

Spokesman Comments on Government 'Withdrawal' Plan

NC2801145093 Yerevan SNARK in English 0948 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 28 (SNARK)—"Use of a force pressure on Armenia wouldn't gain any success and Azerbaijan won't obtain any concession," Ruben Shugaryan, presidential press-secretary, said to SNARK's reporter. "We hope that the world community will estimate Armenia's desire to a peaceful way of the conflict regulation as well as its readiness to defend its vital interests by any measures," Shugaryan underlined. [sentence as received] The press-secretary is sure that "Armenia will withdraw from the conflict with honour." He informed the Armenian Government has a withdrawal program. The spokesman expressed a hope that opposition parties won't use the current difficult situation to gain a political success for themselves.

Minister Makes International Appeal for Aid

OW2701214193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2007 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Minister of Conservation and Environmental Protection Karine Daniyelyan has called for international effort to help lift the blockade on her country and prevent the entire region from degradation.

In a recent appeal to world governments, public and environmental groups, she spoke of the country's economic plight being so severe that it could be likened to a major ecological disaster. The minister's statement says the forced use of the Sevan Lake as a source of drinking water and widespread tree-felling are fraught with dire implications for the environment and sanitation not only in Armenia but the Transcaucasian region as a whole.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Trip Canceled; 'Economic Problems' Cited

OW2701212293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey has cancelled his visit to Switzerland which was scheduled for January 28. He was planning to take part in the International Economic Forum in Davos. The president's press service says Mr Elchibey resolved to stay at home in order to attend to many economic problems which have arisen in the republic recently.

Elchibey Confers With Yeltsin on Economic Relations

NC2701201293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Arif Kuliyev, head of the Azerbaijan Presidential Press Service, has informed an AZERTAC correspondent as follows:

President Elchibey held a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin last night. They discussed the arrangement of economic relations between Azerbaijan and Russia. President Elchibey expressed the anxiety that the new regulations in Russia's customs services may obstruct the improvement of relations between the two countries. On his part, Yeltsin assured Elchibey that the Russian Government will reconsider the matter once again.

Possible Reasons Behind Guseynov Resignation

NC2701171393 Baku TURAN in English 1318 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 27 Jan (TURAN)—The official sources informed that the Azeri Prime-Minister Rakhim Guseynov handed in an application to get the sack from the president of the Republic. [The] resignation was accepted. But its reason is not known.

35 year [old] vice-premier, the chairman of the Committee on Planning and Investments Ali Ahmed oglu Masimov, known as the author of economical programme of the APF [Azerbaijan People's Front] is appointed deputy premier.

It should be mentioned that on the eve of resignation Rakhim Guseynov expressed his dissent according to appointment of workers in the government without [the] premier's participation and economical policy conducted by the administration of [the] president.

Parallelism of the executive power between governmental cabinet and apparatus of president is another important reason of the resignation of the premier.

The presidential apparatus and the institute of advisers already took the main functions of the government, which according to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Tofik Gasymov's words has been "formation of dual power," and according to Chairman of the oppositional Party of National Independence Etibvar Mamedov's words "of complete anarchy."

The unification of both executive bodies to the common administration under leadership of the president is expected in the nearest future. This fact is expected to liquidate bureaucratic bodies of the high executive power of the country.

Milli Mejlis put the question on the resignation of the premier on the agenda.

Commentator Discusses Resignation

LD2701233693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] It is evidently too early to draw final conclusions about the reasons for the resignation on 26 January of

Azerbaijan Prime Minister Rakhim Guseynov, our observer Aleksandr Pimenov believes. However, there are grounds for expressing a few preliminary conclusions on this.

[Pimenov] Rakhim Guseynov spent a stormy eight months in his post. He was appointed during the revolutionary May days of last year and he was endorsed in his post by President Elchibey after the victory of the leader of the Popular Front in the June presidential elections. In my view this shows that Guseynov was at the least acceptable to the president and the ruling Popular Front. It would seem that one could also take on trust the statement by the government's press service: The premier's resignation was brought about by personal motives and is not of a political nature.

However, there are also grounds to doubt the truth of such a claim. According to reports of the NEGA agency, more than once prior to his unexpected resignation Premier Guseynov advocated in interviews to Baku newspapers the broadening of the powers of the head of the government, in particular in the present crisis situation. However, the plan for the reorganization of executive power drawn up by the entourage of President Elchibey, proposes exactly the opposite: a sharp narrowing of the prime minister's prerogatives, so that it is not ruled out that Guseynov resigned on the eve of the curtailment of his powers.

There is one more explanation for Guseynov's departure from the political arena. Vice Premier Ali Masimov, the author of plans for economic and social reforms, was instructed to fulfill the duties of head of the cabinet. Quite recently, in an interview to the ZERKALO [Mirror] newspaper, Masimov hinted quite transparently at considerable and impending new price increases, and first of all for food. And what else could one do but raise prices? Masimov noted. After all, Azerbaijan, it turns out, imports all of its sugar, 60 percent of its meat and grain, and almost two-thirds of all kinds of oil. Masimov did not specify where these imports are coming from, but somehow, it was self-evident that they are coming from Russia. If one adds to this that Azerbaijan's oil refineries, it turns out, are mainly operating on Russian raw material, then the assessment of the true state of affairs in the Republic's economy will be fairly objective.

However, if in the future—almost inevitably in the present crisis situation—there is a slump in production, if there are new price increases in the future, then it is necessary to blame someone for this. One explanation is always at hand: the war in Karabakh. But now the opportunity appears of accusing the previous cabinet of something. Well, of course, it did not take all appropriate measures, and the new government now has to pay for the damage done by its predecessors.

Of course, the deterioration in Azerbaijan's economic situation is in many respects an objective process. However, President Elchibey promised something quite different to his electorate, and the voter will possibly very soon remind the head of the state and his party of this: In the future there will be—approximately in May—parliamentary elections on the basis of the new constitution. It is precisely by this deadline, probably, that Azerbaijan's leadership is seeking to do everything possible in order to try to avoid a defeat.

Hijacking of MiG-25, Destruction of Pipeline Denied

OW2701143393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani President's press service described Yerevan's statement about Baku's involvement in the explosion of the gas pipeline in the Marneuli region a few days ago, as a splash of propaganda activity. As a result of the explosion, gas supplies to Armenian were terminated. The press service also announced that Yerevan's allegations are a brazen lie, as, not a single fact was quoted.

The press service also denied rumors about the hijacking of Azerbaijan's MiG-25 fighter to Yerevan. According to Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry, since this ministry was established, "not a single plane has been hijacked to Armenia." It also stated that Armenia's new propaganda campaign was connected with the visit of CSCE envoy Mario Raffaelli, to the Transcaucasus.

Armenian Revolutionary Federation Blamed

NC2801153993 Baku TURAN in English 1221 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 27 Jan (TURAN)—In the announcement of the Ministry of National Security of republic spread today, statements of the official circles of Yerevan on supposedly participation of the Azeri special services in explosion of gas-main on the territory of Georgia are called "impudent lie."

At the same time the Azeri Ministry of National Security referring to the source close to the Armenian Government confirmed that it were representatives of oppositional party 'Dashnaktsutyn' [Armenian Revolutionary Federation] who performed the explosion on gas-main trying to provoke dissatisfaction of population by the Armenian authority and to remove Ter-Petrosyan.

At the same time, Dashnaks try to settle another strategic question—to embroil Azerbaijan with Georgia—is said in the announcement.

Baku Updates Situation, Reports 'Fierce Fighting'

NC2701191993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

Fierce fighting is taking place between the Azerbaijan Armed Forces and the Armenian occupationist units along the entire battlefront. Violent clashes are taking place in the vicinity of [placename indistinct] and Farrukh. Nevertheless, the operational situation remained unchanged last night and today.

The Armenian units in Fizulinskiy Rayon have tried to retake the Kyzylkaya height, which our fighters captured some time ago. Our positions were fired on last night by artillery. Fighting took place today for the nearby Dzhumbez location. An enemy tank was destroyed in the clashes.

Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon and Tauzskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia with various types of arms last night and today. The enemy fire was returned.

Nagorno-Karabakh Towns Shelled by Artillery

LD2701131093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] According to reports from the LUR information agency, the towns of Stepanakert and Askeran were subjected to shelling by long-distance artillery from the Azerbaijan side today. Positions of the self-defense forces in the area of Askeran were also shelled. Azerbaijan media have reported stubborn fighting in Askeranskiy Rayon. According to the LUR information agency, trench warfare continued in northern Nagorno-Karabakh on Wednesday [27 January] at the approaches to villages that had recently been reoccupied by Armenian detachments. The situation in the Lachin humanitarian corridor has remained calm.

Defense Ministry Spokesman Denies Arms Deal With Israel

MK2701135293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[NEGA report: "No Weapons Purchased"]

[Text] "Azerbaijan has not bought arms from Israel," Azad Isa-zade, deputy chief of the republic Defense Ministry's information and analysis center, stated in an interview with a NEGA correspondent.

He stressed that the report of the supposed agreement between Azerbaijan and Israel for the purchase of arms and military equipment which appeared in the Russian-U.S. newspaper WE/MY is not in accordance with reality. Azerbaijan, according to Azad Isa-zade, intends strictly to adhere to the March 1992 decision of the CSCE Council of Ministers imposing an embargo on arms deliveries to the region of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict." [quotation marks as published]

Islamic Party Protests Bombing of Iraq

OW2701133893 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Jan 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] The Islamic Party of Azerbaijan has come forward with a protest over the bombing of Iraq. This grossly infringes on the Geneva and Helsinki agreements and the UN Charter. While it is still not too late, the announcement emphasizes, it is necessary to unite all political, economic, military, and human potential, and prepare a plan of concrete measures. The Islamic Party of Azerbaijan proposes to hold an extraordinary conference devoted to this issue in Baku, with the participation of the heads of Islamic states.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Gasymov

OW2801092093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Aleksey Sinitsyn report; from the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] 'Abbas Maleki, deputy foreign minister of Iran, arrived in Baku yesterday for an official visit, which will continue until 28 January. He met with [name indistinct], presidential adviser on foreign relations, and Tofik Gasymov, the minister for foreign affairs. A meeting with the president of the republic is also planned.

[Begin Sinitsyn recording] According to a KHABAR-SERVICE correspondent, the main aim of Mr. 'Abbas Maleki's visit is to discuss wide ranging cooperation in economic, scientific, and [words indistinct] between Iran and Azerbaijan, [words indistinct] big prospects. [Words indistinct] in future development of [word indistinct] ties, in the opinion of the deputy minister, [word indistinct] recent visit of the secretary of state of Azerbaijan to Iran. We can also add that Iran could serve as a source of the most modern technologies. [end recording]

Caspian Association Discussed

NC2801150693 Baku TURAN in English 1140 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 28 Jan (TURAN)—Azerbaijan appealed to Iran to delay the realization of ideas of creation of the Caspian Basin states association.

The Azeri Minister of Foreign Affairs Tofik Gasymov informed the TURAN agency that in the course of the recent meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran 'Abbas Maleki, Gasymov expressed opinion according the delay of realization of this proposal. "Azerbaijan will not take part in discussion of the document connected with creation of such kind of association until the international status of the Caspian Sea will be determined," remarked Gasymov.

Czech, Slovak Republics, ILO Conventions Recognized

LD2801102293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Ziyadkhan Gasanov for TASS]

[Text] Baku January 28 TASS—The Azeri Parliament recognised the independence of the Czech and Slovak Republics this Thursday [28 January].

The legislature also decided to accede to the international labour organisation's [ILO] four conventions, including those establishing minimum wages, taking into account developing countries, and protection of the right to arrange and define conditions for employment by civil service.

Georgia

Shevardnadze To Sign Political, Economic Accords in Baku

OW2701195293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1922 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A package of bilateral political and economic agreements is expected to be signed in Baku during next week's visit there by the Chairman of Georgia's parliament, Eduard Shevardnadze, the press secretary of the Georgian leader told Interfax. According to him, this includes documents concerning cooperation in trade, banking, investment and interaction in the area of customs control.

According to unofficial sources, during their talks, Shevardnadze and President Elchibey will evidently discuss problems connected with the need to ensure the rights of ethnic Azeris in Georgia and the rights of ethnic Georgians in Azerbaijan.

On December 7, Shevardnadze conceded in a radio interview that the neighbor country's charges concerning human rights abuses toward ethnic Azeris in Georgia "are, unfortunately, not groundless." He had in mind pogroms and evictions. At the same time, the Georgian leader noted that his country has "complaints about the treatment of ethnic Georgians living in Azerbaijan, in particular in Sainghilo." Nevertheless, Shevardnadze is against making far-reaching conclusions on the basis of "individual facts."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Concrete examples of civil rights violations toward ethnic Azeris in Georgia, as well as cultural and language discrimination against them, were cited by the representatives of Azeri intellectuals born in Georgia, at a meeting with President Elchibey on January 6. They were particularly concerned about the changed names of geographical points in Bolnisi and Dmanisi Districts of Georgia, populated largely by ethnic Azeris. For his part, Elchibey announced his resolve to step up contacts on the level of the two countries' governments, parliaments and public organizations with a view to devising measures to resolve this problem. The observance of the rights of ethnic Azeris in Georgia is an essential factor for furthering relations between Tbilisi and Baku, he pointed out.

Judging by Azeri statistics, about half a million ethnic Azeris live in Georgia, which makes up 11 or 12% of Georgia's population.

Russian Envoy Pleased With Talks; Opposition Critical

MK2701135393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 3

[Guga Lolishvili report: "Moscow Does Not Show Tbilisi the Way, Shevardnadze Asserts; Opposition Does Not Believe Him, and Criticizes the Head of State"]

[Text] The third round of Russian-Georgian talks began in Tbilisi 25 January. The main task at this stage is to complete work on a major framework treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Apart from this, it is proposed to draw up a package of military agreements, chief among which are the agreements on the legal status of Russian troops and the conditions for the operation of Russian border troops temporarily stationed in Georgia. The Tbilisi round will also see the resumption of the discussion of treaties relating to trade and economic relations and transport cooperation, as well as a consultative agreement. By all appearances, this round will last about two weeks.

The discussion of the text of the major framework treaty was virtually completed on day one. In an interview for your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Vladimir Zemskiy, member of the Russian delegation and permanent ambassador of the Russian Federation to Georgia, stated that he predicts that the final text of the major agreement will be virtually completed by the evening of 26 January. Apart from the friendship and cooperation treaty, the Russian and Georgian delegations at the expert level have drawn up the text of the consultative agreement between the two countries. According to Zemskiy, the two sides decided to adopt as a basis the standard draft consultative agreement proposed by the Russian side. By the evening of 25 January the delegations, moving from the big conference hall to a small one, had discussed the treaty on the status of Russian border troops. During the discussion of this agreement some snags arose in connection with certain formulas and questions of collaboration between Russian and Georgian border guards during the transitional period. Ambassador Zemskiy stated that in general he is pleased with the results of the first day of the third round, because the talks took place in a businesslike atmosphere and a mood of mutual understanding.

As for the domestic political situation in Georgia, it should be noted that the Russian-Georgian dialogue was the stimulus for the final formation of a relatively powerful political party opposition with regard to "Shevardnadze's excessively pro-Russian orientation." NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has reported that last week Georgia's main political parties held a meeting at which rather radical views were expressed with regard to Russia. The main demand of the opposition parties, which are uniting around the Georgian National Independence Party, is the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia, and Russian-Georgian talks only after that. Shevardnadze himself described as groundless the accusations that he adheres to a course of pro-Russian political orientation, since, as he put it, it would be unjustified to be oriented toward any one country at the moment. In an earlier NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA interview the Georgian leader stated that his priority orientation is toward the United States and the FRG. Nonetheless the voices accusing Shevardnadze are becoming increasingly numerous. For instance, Akakiy Asatiani, leader of the party of Georgian traditionalists (he was formerly speaker of parliament under Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and then went

over to the opposition to the ex-president), told journalists that in his opinion Shevardnadze has no political course at present. As for Shevardnadze himself, he once again came out in favor of a close relationship with Russia, stressing that you cannot break off economic ties that have developed over so many years.

The majority of local political observers are inclined to take a positive view of the head of state's activity, and still do not doubt the correctness of the formula: Shevardnadze is the best option for Georgia today. Obviously much will depend on parliament's position. At one time Shevardnadze used to repeat frequently that he had succeeded in enlisting the support of the parliamentary majority. In view of the fact that many of the oppositionists are parliamentarians, a far from trivial parliamentary shakedown can be predicted in the near future.

Shevardnadze Says Ending Abkhazia Conflict Main Goal

OW2701213893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, declared that the main provision to revive Georgia's economy is to end the war in Abkhazia. "We have chosen this way and it should be pursued to the very end," he declared on Wednesday at the session of the republic's parliament in Tbilisi.

"I see a way out of this conflict," Shevardnadze said, "and I place the issue on peace above everything. Only peace is able to ensure that our economy blossom."

Abkhaz Parliament Chairman Warns Conflict May Worsen

OW2701211393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba warned that if Georgia does not back down from its forceful methods of settling the conflict in Abkhazia, the war there could become more severe and ugly than the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ardzinba, currently in Moscow, said in an interview with INTERFAX that "Georgia's lack of desire to sit down to the negotiating table explains their hope that the conflict be resolved by force."

He feels it is already too late for the conflict to be settled through political means without a mediator. He pointed out that during the September meeting in Moscow between President Boris Yeltsin, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, and Ardzinba, "Russia declared its readiness to continue peace efforts in settling the conflict in Abkhazia." Ardzinba expressed his certainty that Russia had not backed away from its obligation.

He said that he came to Moscow 2 days ago to settle issues connected with the circumstances of Abkhazian refugees.

Views Peace Settlement Prospects

PM2801112393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba by G. Bochkarev in Gudauta; date not given: "Vladislav Ardzinba: 'Well, I Would Say to Eduard Amvrosiyevich...'"]

[Text] Gudauta—[Ardzinba] Hundreds of people have been killed, thousands wounded, and tens of thousands turned into refugees in the five months of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. In various cities of Russia I see women with children in underground passageways. They hold clumsy, handwritten placards reading "Help the refugees from Abkhazia" and beg for alms. It makes no difference to me who these women are—whether they be Georgians, Armenians, Russians, or Abkahzians.

They have fled the war...

You will hardly find a single sensible politician in Abkhazia or the Caucasus who has not racked his brains over the problem of how to end this war as quickly as possible.

And yet the war cannot go on forever, particularly as many observers consider that the Abkhazian problem cannot be solved militarily, since all Abkhazians capable of bearing arms would have to be killed in that case. And they intend to fight to the last. Abkhazia is also backed by the Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus [CPC]—that is, 16 Caucasian peoples—behind it.

To get out of the state of war we are ready to discuss any peace settlement option. However, today the political talks between Georgia and Abkhazia are virtually at a complete standstill and, judging by the Georgian leadership's statements in the mass media, Tbilisi still hopes to resolve the Abkhazian issue by military force. But, in my view, we need a mediator if the process of talks is to be restored, and such a mediator—that is, Russia—does exist. If you recall, the Moscow agreements of 3 September envisaged that we would meet again in a month's time and, in the words of President Yeltsin himself, would see how the document was working. Four months have now elapsed since then.

I think that Russia should be making efforts to secure a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. I am sure that, if the Soviet Army's heavy weapons had not been handed over to Georgia, the Georgian leadership would not have gotten it in its head to suppress Abkhazia by force.

[Bochkarev] And yet you say that you want to see Russia play the role of mediator in the talks, but Georgia cannot agree to the Russian Federation's "interference" in the conflict.

[Ardzinba] It is not just Russia which could act as mediator in the political dialogue. We are ready to accept mediation by any international organization—the United Nations, the CSCE, or the organizations of unrepresented peoples.

Unfortunately, no one responds to our appeals to the United Nations. In that regard we do not enjoy equal terms with Georgia. Georgia is a member of the United Nations

and is officially recognized by the world community. But we want the world to give a hearing to our arguments too. Everyone is concerned by the fate of the 400 Palestinians deported from Israel. But why, then, do people show such indifference to the attempt to virtually exterminate the Abkhazian people?

[Bochkarev] But are there conditions of any kind from which Abkhazia would not retreat a single step at any talks?

[Ardzinba] Yes—the withdrawal of Georgian troops.

[Bochkarev] In our discussion you constantly focus attention on Russia's peacemaking mission. At the same time, the Russian authorities are not, in my opinion, rushing to continue this mission of theirs. Do you intend to seek peacemakers elsewhere?

[Ardzinba] More than 300,000 Abkhazians live in Turkey—more than in Abkhazia itself. We will urge more vigorously that our Caucasian brothers restore the roll of volunteers. At present we have been keeping this process in check. And then the situation in the Caucasus is bound to influence the Russian Government itself. That must be understood.

[Bochkarev] Incidentally, regarding the "Caucasian brothers," there was a report claiming that you had had disagreements with the CPC leaders...

[Ardzinba] We have had no disagreements. CPC President Musa Shanibov is in Abkhazia at present, and we are in constant contact with him.

[Bochkarev] If you had the opportunity to talk to Eduard Shevardnadze, what would you say to him?

[Ardzinba] Well, I would say to Eduard Amvrosiyevich that the commitment of troops to Abkhazia was the grossest error, it is a patent violation of the commitments which Georgia assumed on joining the United Nations.

[Bochkrev] So do you accept any kind of federal relations between Abkazia and Georgia, then?

[Ardzinba] I would answer in this way: The longer the war goes on, the less chance of our being able to find a common language.

Security Service Holding Abkhazian Vice Premier in Tbilisi

OW2701213993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's information-intelligence service has reported that Abkhazian Vice Premier Zurab Labakhua, who was detained with other passengers on an MI-8 helicopter on the territory under Georgian control, is in Tbilisi now. Documents belonging to Lobakhua and testifying to the fact that he headed the so-called Council of Abkhazia's eastern front were found in the helicopter, which made a forced landing on January 18. Labakhua's military reports to the Gudauta leadership were also found there. An investigation on this issue is underway.

Abkhazian Formations Resume Attacks on Sukhumi

LD2701210493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2048 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi January 27 TASS—Abkhazian formations stationed on the opposite bank of the Gumista River opened artillery fire at residential areas of Sukhumi at 11.30 [0830 GMT] and 13:00 on Wednesday.

Over ten shells exploded on the territory of a new city district injuring four civilians, including two Armenians, a Russian and a Georgian.

Government on Tkvarcheli Refusal of Humanitarian Aid

OW2701175093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with Interfax, Revaz Egadze, press secretary of the Georgian parliament, reported that the refusal of the Abkhazian side to take Russian humanitarian assistance in Tkvarcheli "cannot be justified by anything." In Egadze's words, "it is absolutely not clear" why Abkhazia connects "liberation of Abkhazian representatives" with the receipt of humanitarian aid.

The press secretary underlined that Tbilisi's attitude towards humanitarian cargo for Tkvarcheli remains unchanged: "Georgia will send helicopters with humanitarian aid via the territory controlled by its forces."

Estonia

Parliamentarian Discusses Relations With Russia

OW2701192893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1919 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian troops remaining in Estonia and the deadlines for their withdrawal are of less significance to Estonia than Russia's recognition of the Tartu Peace Treaty. Vello Saatpalu, chairman of the Estonian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed this opinion in an interview with Baltfax after meeting with his Russian colleague, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov.

Saatpalu believes that if Russia officially recognizes the treaty's provisions, Estonia will be prepared "to make serious compromises" during international negotiations between the two countries, including changes in the borders established by the Tartu Peace Treaty.

According the Tartu Peace Treaty (1920) between Russia and Estonia, certain territories which currently lie in the Russian Federation's Leningrad and Pskov regions, should belong to Estonia.

Earlier, head of the Russian delegation in negotiations with Estonia, Vasiliy Svirin, viewed Estonia's position on establishing an interstate border according to the Tartu Treaty as territorial advances from Estonia toward Russia.

New Estonian Maps Claim Russian Territory

PM2801100193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Russian Lands on Estonian Maps"]

[Text] Tallinn—New geographical maps have appeared in Estonian schools. On these maps the territory of the present republic has added Russian lands—part of Leningrad and Pskov oblasts. A parent described this at the IZVESTIYA correspondent's point.

I telephoned to the Sillamae city national education association.

"Yes, we have been sent such maps," its chief, V. Borsuk, confirmed. "On them Estonia has been represented in its prewar borders. The maps are published by the Regio firm."

The information was also confirmed at the Ministry of Culture and Education's schools department, but with an amendment: Two borders are included on the maps. The first marks the territory of today's republic, the second its prewar territory. With the lands of Zanarovye and Pechory. That is Estonia has been "returned" to the borders defined by the Tartu peace treaty in 1920.

The maps designating prewar territory have also appeared on Estonia's embassies and consulates in other countries. This cartography is politics and not geography. It reflects the fundamental difference between the positions of Estonia and Russia. The Estonian parliament has announced the restoration of the former republic with its institutions and laws and, naturally, within its former borders. Russia, the first to recognize Estonia's independence, most likely views it as a new independent state. At any rate the Russian parliament has banned any talks on territorial questions. For Russia it is impossible to abandon the principle of the inviolability of today's borders between states that were union republics. That would give rise to a chain reaction of reciprocal claims and new bloody conflicts.

Two lines on the map, two policies. Two different concepts of justice and good-neighborliness. And it is absolutely clear that the cartographers and the clients for new maps cannot eliminate the most acute problem between the two countries.

International Experts To Check Paldiski Reactors

WS2701131693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1824 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From 26 January RAHVA HAAL, p.1]

[Text] Tuesday, January 26—The work group on nuclear safety of the Council of the Baltic Sea Countries classified the Paldiski reactors as objects needing international experts supervision to assess the level of damage at its meeting in Helsinki on January 21-28, the Foreign Ministry announced. Russian military authorities have failed to present sufficient information about the reactors. The nuclear safety work group reviewed the photographs and video recordings prepared during Premier Laar's recent visit to Paldiski and listened to the explanation of the Estonian representative.

The work group decided to recommend to the Council to form a group of experts with 10 votes against 1. At the request of the Russian representative Russia's position was recorded on the safety of the Paldiski nuclear installations. Estonia has been active in discussing the nuclear problems of Paldiski and Sillamae, the Foreign Ministry press service stressed.

Government To Purchase Union Baltic Bank

WS2701132493 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1752 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, January 25—An emergency shareholders session on Estonia's Union Baltic Bank decided to declare the bank insolvent and sell it to the government in return for certificates to replace the money suspended in the Vneshekonombank in Moscow.

The votes split 10,870:138 with 8 abstentions.

The meeting also decided upon an appeal to the country's parliament, the Riigikogu, to ask for 1.5 million Estonian kroons from the 100 kroon reorganisation fund to [word indistinct] small shareholders who own up to three shares.

The banking crisis in Estonia started on November 17 last year when the Bank of Estonia took control over three Estonian banks, the Tartu Commercial Bank (TKP), the Union Baltic Bank and the North Estonian Shareholding

Bank. The moratorium on TKP ended on December 19 when the country's central bank annulled its banking license.

Latvia

Options on Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Exhausted'

WS2701130893 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 26, BNS—A top member of the Latvian Satversme faction said today that negotiators have exhausted all their options on Russian troop withdrawal.

Janis Vaivads, leader of the Latvian Savertsme faction, argued that the Russo-Latvian talks are ineffective because Russia refuses to recognize Latvia as an independent country. The talks have lost their bases, he said.

Vaivads proposed to inform international organizations, such as the CSCE and the UNO, about shifts in the atmosphere of the talks. He also called for a special working party to prepare further negotiations and to activize drafting of political programs.

It is necessary to supply the Russian side with rights-related issues, he said. The Latvian side was giving up its position because the Latvian-Russian Peace Treaty of August 1920 has ceased to be cited as fundamental basis for the negotiations.

Vaivads conceeded the talks had practically been exhausted.

He also said Russia has not reckoned with international norms regarding the neutral stand of international structures.

There also is little hope that their stand would become more active.

Deputy Foreign Minister Martins Virsis of Latvia, who also participated in the faction meeting, said the issue could not be resolved in a closed meeting. Faction members would rather join with the Latvian delegation in talks with Russia and its leader, Minister of State Janis Dinevies.

Special Forces Commander May Be Extradited to Russia

OW2701182893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1729 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Federation's General Public Prosecutor's Office told Baltfax that Russian General Public Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov is planning a trip to Latvia in early February. There, it is presumed, he will decide whether to deport former deputy commander of Riga's OMON [special purpose militia detachment] forces, Sergey Parfyenov, who was tried and convicted by a Riga court, so that he may serve his sentence in Russia.

As is known, the Presidium of Latvia's Supreme Council gave parliament "the privilege" of deciding whether to grant the republic's general public prosecutor's office the right to transfer foreigners imprisoned on Latvian territory to foreign law enforcement organs in order to serve out their sentences in their homelands.

The Russian Public Prosecutor's Office did not rule out the possibility that the precedent to be set with Parfyenov, who remained in confinement for about 8 months, will summon a wave of appeals from Russians serving time in Latvia and wanting to return to Russia.

During Stepankov's trip to Riga, the Latvian and Russian public prosecutors also plan to sign a protocol on collaboration between their offices.

Inspector Says Situation at Russian Base 'Dangerous'

LD2701195093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The situation at the Russian Motorized Rifle Division in Dobele is dangerous, from the standpoint of the psychological state of the officers and warrant officers located there, Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the monitoring office for the withdrawal of Russian troops, said after his first inspection visit to the army unit located there. Today at a briefing devoted to the results of the trip, Upmalis stated that for the first time on an inspection there was a chance to look over the combat equipment belonging to the Dobele military unit. At the three sites occupied by the forces, which take up several dozen hectares of territory, at present there is a big concentration of motorized equipment: tanks, construction machinery, and other equipment.

In conversation with unit commanders, the Latvian side was asked to allow entry for a further 750 soldiers to the Dobele military unit. Ilgonis Upmalis stressed that there will be no permission for further entry if it is intended to reinforce combat strength or to increase personnel numbers.

The inspection also ascertained that the facilities and territory of the military unit are in a very neglected state, and are not well managed. Many facilities are not used, yet the Russian side is giving no orders for their handing over to Latvia. This military unit is completely ignorant of Russia's intentions for it, Ilgonis Upmalis said. In their disorganized life and their lack of information, tense relations have arisen among the Russian Army officers themselves.

Citizenship Law 'Hardly Likely' To Please Russian Speakers

PM2801095393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Yuriy Stroganov report: "Surprises for Nonindigenous Population"]

[Text] Riga—Although there is as yet no law on citizenship in Latvia, and so far the right to acquire a Latvian passport

can be exercised only by the indigenous population—that is, citizens of the prewar republic and their descendants—the minor step forward in solving this difficult problem is hardly likely to inspire great joy among the majority of Russian speakers. Nevertheless, Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs has advocated adopting a law on citizenship before the elections to the new Seimas, and even before the departure of the last soldier from the Russian Army. But what he has proposed is not a zero option, like in Lithuania, it is a qualified option. To obtain "naturalization," it is necessary to have lived in Latvia for 10 years and to have a working knowledge of the state language.

However, A. Gorbunovs believes that this law should be approved via a referendum of the indigenous population. Everybody knows the outcome of a similar referendum in Estonia—an appeal only to the nonindigenous [as published] and, for all intents and purposes, right wing forces. It resulted in discrimination against the nonindigenous population. But even if this law were to be adopted immediately, the majority of Russian-speakers are still unlikely to have time to obtain a Latvian passport before the elections to the Seimas: After all, they could take place as early as in a few months. In other words, as with the Estonian National Assembly, it is not expected that the nonindigenous population will have representatives in the Latvian Seimas, and this will promote a further stratification of the population along national and social lines, as the Russian-speaking population will not be able to uphold their rights at a legislative level.

The sharp reaction to any possible "indulgence" in favor of the nonindigenous population from certain national-radical activists confirms these thoughts. In the opinion of Yu. Dobelis, member of the Latvian People's Front Duma, which he expressed at the "Elections-93" Conference, the law on citizenship should not be adopted before the elections to the Seimas.

Gorbunovs, Joxe Discuss Russian Military Withdrawal

WS2[illegible]1130693 Tallinn BNS in English 1314 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, Jan 26, BNS—Latvian Parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs met with French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe Monday [25 January] to discuss problems with the withdrawal of ex-Soviet military from the Baltics.

Gorbunovs conceded his anxiety over the withdrawal process was growing after the Russian bid to preserve several installations on the Latvian territory.

The continued presence of Russian officers has become a source of increased political tension in the country.

The tension is increased in light of Russian attempts to disband its military units in Latvia rather than returning them to Russia.

Gorbunovs argued that Russia was delaying the process of the pullout in order to publicize imperialistic statements about the Baltics.

Joxe remarked that Russia would be obliged to establish equal relations with the three Baltic States on its way to a genuine democracy sooner or later.

Joxe also pledged French assistance in training Latvian officers and expressed hope that the future cooperation between both country's defense forces would become regular.

Godmanis, Lubys Discuss Unified Economic Zone

WS2701131293 Riga LETA in English 0551 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, January 26 (LETA)—Ivars Godmanis, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvia, met here with Bronislovas Lubys, the head of the Lithuanian government, on Monday [25 January]. After the meeting was organized a news conference, during which journalists were told that the meeting focused on establishing a unified economic zone. Latvia and Lithuania intend to sign in the near future an agreement on free trade between the two countries. Both prime ministers expressed hope that Estonia also will join the two Baltic republics in this project. The foreign ministers of all three Baltic states are due to meet on February 9, when they are going to discuss the eventual agreement.

During the meeting both prime ministers paid much attention to problems with energetics.

Bronislovas Lubys also told journalists that Lithuania will strongly press for achieving the previously set goal, namely, to make Russia withdraw its troops from the territory of Lithuania unconditionally. The Lithuanian prime minister pointed out the necessity to exchange more promptly and completely the information about negotiations with Russia.

Lithuania

Russian Soldiers 'Illegally' Transported to Lithuania

WS2701132693 Tallinn BNS in English 1753 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 26, BNS—929 Russian soldiers instead of 207 were illegally transported to Lithuania, Colonel Stasys Knezys, authorized commissioner of the Lithuanian government for Russian army withdrawal, reported.

A permission to transport 207 Russian soldiers to paratrooper units in Lithuania for loading and other assistance work was issued by Lithuanian authorities some time ago, Knezys informed at a press conference in Vilnius Tuesday [26 January].

The Lithuanian side established that Russia violated the above permission. Russia's Ambassador to Lithuania Nikolay Obertyshev invited for explanations to the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Russian soldiers were transported by airplanes, which makes their control much more difficult, since Lithuanian

military authorities are not allowed to control Russian military airports on Lithuanian territory.

According to Knezys, the total number of Russian military in Lithuania increased to 15 thousand after the illegal transport.

Acting President on Arrival of Russian Contingent

OW2801125093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1149 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The composition of the Lithuanian state delegation for talks with Russia will be approved by the republic's new president following his election on February 14. Lithuania's Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas revealed this answering Baltfax' question in that regard at a press conference in Vilnius on Thursday [28 January].

Mr Brazauskas said that the center of gravity at the talks with Russia should be shifted from political issues to more pragmatic matters, including the countries' economic relations. The composition of the republic's state delegation will be formed on the basis of this premise, he said.

Mr Brazauskas confirmed that the Sejmas Foreign Affairs Committee has forwarded proposals of its own in regards to the composition of the Lithuanian state delegation, with all of its former members retaining their positions in the negotiating team so far, he said.

The head of the Lithuanian delegation, Ceslovas Stankevicius, is currently on vacation, Mr Brazauskas said, adding he is not aware of who is taking charge of the delegation's activities in his absence.

Mr Brazauskas characterized as "a serious issue" the arrival in Lithuania of an additional military contingen from Russia. Lithuania is taking urgent steps to address it, he said, referring to the Lithuanian MFA's [Ministry of Foreign Affairs'] summoning Russia's Ambassador Mr Obertyshev and its forwarding a note to the Russian MFA. Written statements were made on that subject to the CinC N-WGF [Northwest Group of Forces] Colonel General Mayorov and Russia's Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev, he said.

In the words of Mr Brazauskas, if these efforts do not produce good results, Lithuania will try to establish direct contact with the Russian government in order to resolve this problem.

Mr Brazauskas also indicated that Lithuania will be obliged to assist Russia in withdrawing its troops from the republic, particularly, by providing its labor resources.

Committee Suggests Changes in Team for Talks With Russia

OW2801124693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1149 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its Wednesday [27 January] session, the Lithuanian Sejmas Foreign Affairs Committee made a decision to propose to Lithuania's Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas several changes in the composition of the republic's state delegations for talks with Russia.

The Committee suggests that the following officials be included in the republic's state delegation: Egidius Bickauskas, former charge d'affairs of the Lithuanian Republic in Moscow; Leonardas Kestutis Jaskelevicius, chairman of the Sejmas Budgetary and Finance Committee; Mecys Laurinkas, head of the CIS Department at the Lithuanian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]; Nikolay Medvedev, Sejmas member; Romualdas Ramoska, deputy minister of industry and trade; Kazys Ratkevicius, deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Lithuanian State Bank.

Baltic States To Take Action To Insure Security

OW2801122793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1150 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian Home Guard minister, Audrius Butkevicius, said in his Wednesday [27 January] interview over the national television that the Baltic States Council is going to set up an inter-governmental defense committee to coordinate the defense policy of the three Baltic states. This decision, he said, was made at a seminar of the defense ministry officials of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and France which was held in Riga and Vilnius on January 25-27.

The first problems the committee will have to address in the near future, Mr Butkevicius said, will be control over the air and sea borders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The minister expressed confidence that the all Russian army units will be withdrawn from the territory of Lithuania, observing, in the meantime, that the republic's security will only be "essentially insured" after the Russian troops have been pulled out of all the three Baltic republics. Otherwise, Lithuania will find itself "clenched" by the Russian army contingents deployed, on the one hand, in Kaliningrad region, and in Estonia, Latvia and Belarus, on the other.

Acting President Addresses Agricultural Reforms Conference

OW2701183093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1728 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Not only drought and other objective reasons but our own activity as well have brought deplorable results to Lithuania's agriculture." This is the conclusion of the acting president of the republic, Algidras Brazauskas, who addressed a conference held in parliament on Wednesday [27 January] devoted to the implementation of agricultural reforms.

Brazauskas underlined that the process of returning land to their former owners should not be stopped. At the same time, he drew attention to the fact that this process should be implemented in such a way so as land could be used as

effectively as possible for the good of the landowners and the state. According to the state's leader, agrarian reform should be implemented in accordance with projects for land-utilization, taking into account the interests and wishes of land owners under provision that they can choose their own forms of economic management.

Brazauskas stressed the necessity of approving a decree on cooperation in the near future and to look for methods to coordinate prices for fuel, equipment and other resources with prices for agricultural production; otherwise, the agricultural economy may have no prospects.

The majority of other orators, along with the head of state, recognized that "the reform has become bogged down" and that "many mistakes have been made." However, if some conference participants called "unreasonable and irrational decisions" the main reason for the misfortunes, others believe that the agricultural decline was caused by resistance to reforms.

Brazauskas on Seimas Elections, Political Past

WS2701130293 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1304 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 172]

[Text] 26 January 1993—Meeting with electors at Vilnius Radio Components Factory, Algirdas Brazauskas revealed the elections to the Seimas as the total fiasco of the Sajudis' social and economical policy because its leaders had turned away from the essential needs of the people and mostly fought for personal power.

The life demands that urgent changes be made in the economical policy, he said, but tangible results can only be expected from specialists in that very sphere, that is why, he maintained, that the future President ought to be well versed in the economical affairs of the country, thus implying that his opponent had lived 50 years in emigration.

Algirdas Brazauskas reminded the audience that all his working career had been connected with Lithuania's economy. "Even in the capacity of the Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, he said, I had nothing to do with politics. I entered the political arena with the outset of the national revival in 1988. I managed to find a common language with the leaders of the Sajudis movement and they approved of my election to the post of the First Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party".

One of the most important steps on Lithuania's way towards the restoration of its independence, in Algirdas Brazauskas' view, was the break of the Lithuanian Communist Party from Moscow at the end of 1989. Algirdas Brazauskas called back to mind the threats of the Kremlin hard liners to do away with him. He said there had been a real threat of the course of the 13 January events at that stage already.

Algirdas Brazauskas confessed he had never been a communist by conviction. "My goal has always been and is to work honestly for Lithuania", he said. He believes he has health and strength enough: his blood pressure is 120/80 and his weight: 112 kilograms.

Brazauskas, Lozoraitis Launch Political Campaign

WS2701130093 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1304 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 172]

[Text] 26 January 1993—In their first common television broadcast, both presidential candidates Algirdas Brazauskas and Stasys Lozoraitis practically did not differ in their definition of President's role in the political life of Lithuania. On taking the oath, President will have to dissociate himself from any political influence, said the DLP [Democratic Labor Party] candidate Algirdas Brazauskas, however he did not disclose if he would leave the DLP or merely suspend his membership in case he is elected President.

Stasys Lozoraitis emphatically stressed he was an independent candidate, adding that he had not signed any contract committing him to any political party because he had set himself the task of restoring harmony in the nation.

Both candidates agreed that the state of the Lithuanian economy is tragic, each promising to set himself the primary task of turning the tide rectifying the situation. Neither of them detailed his programme of action intending to do so in their encounters with the electorate.

Stasys Lozoraitis started his presidential campaign in the western region of Lithuania. His electoral campaign is conducted by the well-known activist of the Lithuanian emigration, the USA Federal Nature Protection Department Administrator for the North- Western Region Valdas Adamkus, who has taken a month-long leave of his duties. Stasys Lozoraitis has set up a big electoral staff consisting of representatives from all the political parties with the exception of the DLP. His electoral motto is: "President to unite the nation".